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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

'What a great gift we've lost'

Corazon C. Aquino, 1933-2009

WOMAN OF THE YEAR Acknowledging her pivotal role in the fall of Marcos, Time Magazine picks Cory Woman of the Year for 1986, the third woman to make it to its cover, after Queen Elizabeth II and Wallis Simpson, for whom English king Edward VIII gave up his throne. She's so far the only Filipino so honored by Time.

CORY MAGIC Other news magazines like Newsweek, swooning at the Cory magic that inspired the People's Power revolt, paid tribute in its March 1986 cover. She was also the hands-down cover-maker of the year of media organizations in France, Spain, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Israel.

ONE MORE TIME On the 60th anniversary of Time's Asian edition in 2006, the magazine again chooses Cory as cover girl, including her in its list of heroes in the region with other Filipinos like pool player Efren "Bata" Reyes and boxing champ Eugenio Apacible.

By Beverly T. Natividad and Christine O. Avendaño

HER DOCTORS SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT SHE had only 72 hours to live, but a member of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (also known as the Pink Sisters) predicted she would go on a First Saturday because of her devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

The nun's prediction, made to family and friends of the cancer-stricken Corazon Aquino, was proved correct. A longtime Marian devotee, the former President passed on in the early hours yesterday, the first Saturday of the month.

Aquino, 76, died "peacefully" at 3:18 a.m. at the Makati Medical Center, according to her son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who made the announcement at 5 a.m.

"She would have wanted to thank each and every one of you for all the prayers and your continued love and support. It was her wish for one another and for our country," the senator told reporters.

The body now lies in state at the La Salle Green Hills gymnasium on Ortigas Avenue in Mandaluyong City, where it will remain for public viewing until Monday morning.

A private funeral is scheduled on Aug. 5, the senator said. He said his mother would be laid to rest next to his father, Benigno "Ni-

WHAT A GREAT GIFT: A6

Grateful nation in mourning for Woman in Yellow

By the Inquirer Editors

A GRATEFUL NATION IS IN mourning for the Woman in Yellow—the prayerful widow whose reluctant rise on the political stage transformed her into a slayer of tyranny, a world icon of People Power and the constant voice in the Filipinos' continuing struggle against corrupt, abusive rule.

Carmen "Cory" Aquino's 16-month battle against colon cancer overflowed with prayers tied to yellow ribbons. Yet even from her sickbed, her voice remained the voice of democracy.

GRATEFUL: A6

Our eternal flame, our Cory

EDITORIAL

WHEN THE LIGHT OF CORY AQUINO'S LIFE, flickering as it had been, in the final, painful, month of her hospital seclusion, was finally extinguished, the country had been, in a sense, expecting it. Yet the news was still received with shock; and grief has settled over the nation, uniting rich and poor, old and young, the partisan and the apathetic, men and women, soldiers and civilians.

Unity is a rare thing in our country; we have it now; and adding to the feelings of grief is the wistful realization that it took the passing of Cory to reunite a divided nation.

In 1948, with trembling voice, Jawaharlal Nehru informed his people of the passing of Mahatma Gandhi with these immortal words: "The light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere." There was no single great national figure to inform the country of Cory's passing; instead, a quiet announcement came from her grief-stricken son, and there began the passing on of the news, and the sharing of fond memories.

EXISTENTIAL: A11

Obama leads world in tribute to RP icon

US PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND other world leaders expressed sadness at the death of former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, describing her as a historic figure who helped restore democracy to her country.

Obama "was deeply saddened" by news of Aquino's death, read a statement late Friday from White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

Aquino "played a crucial role in Philippines history," moving the country to democratic rule through her nonviolent "People Power" movement over 20 years ago.

"Her courage, determination, and moral leadership are an inspiration to us all and exemplify the best in the Filipino nation. On behalf of the American people, the President extends his deepest condolences to the Aquino family and the nation of the Philippines," the statement read.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lauded Aquino as an inspiration.

"I extend my deepest condolences to the Aquino family and all the people of the Philippines on the death of former President Corazon Aquino," Clinton said in a statement.

"Cory Aquino was beloved by her nation and admired by the world for

OBAMA: A6

DEFINING MOMENTS

SIGNATURE POSE Candidate Cory flashes the "Laban" sign that became her signature during the presidential campaign in 1986. The sign has become a favorite of many groups or organizations, signifying the will to endure and prevail. Thousands were drawn to the streets in a massive outpouring of support and sympathy for Ninoy's widow, spurred on by cries of "Laban!" Victory was sweet when Cha and came for the dictatorship and a new, democratic regime was in place. (More stories and pictures in Inquirer Special)

RP's FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT Installed by a bloodless people power revolt which she inspired and that culminated in the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Cory Aquino, "the plain housewife," takes her oath as President on Feb. 25, 1986, before then Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee at Club Filipino, San Juan with mother-in-law Aurora Aquino holding the Bible.

LONGEST OVATION To rousing applause described by some as "the longest given to any foreign dignitary," Cory addresses the joint session of the US Congress during a state visit to the US in 1986 at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan. Behind her are Senate President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond and Speaker Thomas O'Neill.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2 20 29 / 1 8

SUERTRES 6 9 5 / 5 3 5 / 2 4 2

SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 2 8 3 7 6 3

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN 5 8 13 15 25 37 P3,819,121.20

POWER LOTTO 5/55+1/10 18 28 1 20 44+1 P67,430,430.00

GMA orders 10 days of mourning

President to cut short US visit to fly home for Cory

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WASHINGTON (WA PILOT)—A 10-DAY PERIOD OF national mourning has been ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the woman she called a "national treasure."

Ms. Arroyo is cutting short her trip to the United States to join her fellow Filipinos in mourning former President Corazon Aquino's passing, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

On the phone from New York with reporters in Washington, Ermita said Ms Arroyo had yet to decide what part of her trip to cancel that would allow her to return to the Philippine immediately.

Ms. Arroyo received word of Aquino's passing a few minutes before her scheduled meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Willard Hotel at 4:30 p.m. on Friday (4 a.m. Saturday in Manila).

She was shaken by the news and immediately instructed her staff to modify a schedule she committed to last meeting with Clinton, according to Ambassador Abaroa, her adviser on climate change.

Another letter, Ms Arroyo directed in a gray suit, typed a message on Aquino before proceeding to Andrews Air Force Base for her flight to New York.

She announced the period of mourning in her message. (See box.)

Stops in Chicago, Guam

Upon arrival at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York, the President was met by top Cabinet officials led by Ermita, who advised her to cut her trip short.

Ermita said Ms Arroyo could afford to skip the rest of her trip—stops in Chicago and Guam until Aug. 5—because her scheduled meetings with Filipino-American representatives could be moved to another time.

A press conference is scheduled at 11 a.m. Saturday (11 p.m. Sunday in Manila), where Ermita will report on the President's return date.

"She is coming back . . . to share the grief of Filipinos in the loss of former President Aquino, who was instrumental in restoring democracy in the Philippines," Ermita said.

While she was making her arrangements for her trip short, Ms. Arroyo signed Proclamation 1858 setting a period of national mourning from Aug. 1 to 10, with all flags to be flown at half-staff at all government buildings and installations in the Philippines and abroad.

Abaroa, who was Aquino's spokesman until yesterday, recalled how "fighting spirit" when her administration was beset by a succession of coup attempts.

"This is the passing of an era. I hope that we will not need another Aquino to save our democracy," he said.

A full schedule awaited Ms Arroyo in New York on Saturday, with four business meetings and an interview with CNBC's Maria Bartiromo.

She was to meet with Coca-Cola executives Unwrapped by Trade Secretary Peter Favila), with Chardan Capital and Eli Wunik Methopedics of Basic International Development Corp. (both arranged by Representative Rep. Herminiano Mendoreal), and with unnamed hedge fund executives (arranged by former Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin).

Ermita said Ms Arroyo could afford to leave for home on Saturday night (when a dinner party with PGMA at the Newark Museum was scheduled) or Sunday morning (when she was to attend Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral).

She was scheduled to leave New York for Chicago on Aug. 3.

Meeting with Hillary

The President met with Clinton amid confusion among her Cabinet officials and journalists who were informed that the meeting had been canceled.

Apparently kept in the dark by personal chief Manuel Dayrit about the meeting, Ermita and Press Secretary Cerge Remonde kept insisting the meeting had been cancelled hours after it was held.

The two women leaders were said to have talked at the 6th floor of the Willard Hotel for half an hour, with discussions centering on security matters. The Palace's DFVM was not allowed to cover the meeting.

PRESIDENT ARROYO is helped down the airplane ramp by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Hilario Davide on arrival at the Newark airport in New Jersey where she deplaned for the New York leg of her trip. NOEL MALICDAN/INQUIRER

GMA statement on Cory passing

THIS IS THE FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's message:

"Today, the Philippines lost a national treasure. Cory Aquino helped lead a revolution that restored democracy and the rule of law to our nation at a time of great peril.

"Our nation will mourn her passing.

"History was thrust upon her when her noble husband was cut down in the prime of his life as he fought for democracy and the rule of law. She picked up the standard from the fallen martyr, Ninoy, and helped lead our nation to a brighter day.

"I am announcing today that we will officially observe a 10-day period of national mourning.

"Our hearts go out to the family in this hour of grief and sorrow. The nation prays for Cory and her family."

US Asean designation of RP nothing new, admits Palace

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Lala B. Salamero

WASHINGTON, D.C. (WA PILOT)—Presidential Hillary Clinton's designation of the Philippines as "longstanding ally" in its relations with Southeast Asia is nothing new, admitted Malacañang officials.

The members of the Association of Southeast Nations (Asean) had already assigned that role to the Philippines a few months ago, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde told a press briefing here.

Remonde said Obama merely "ratified or formalized" Asean's appointment of the Philippines, which the regional association normally does in its relations with its dialogue partners like Japan and China.

He said that this meant the Philippines will act as the bridge between US and Asean countries.

In her meetings with Obama and other US government officials, the Philippine president will always "speak for and in behalf of Asean," Remonde said.

"I assure you that President Obama was aware of this. The announcement was just a confirmation of a designation made by Asean. Such is diplomacy that when one hasten men, there is a lot of back channeling," he said.

In his meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Washington on Thursday, Obama announced that the Philippines would be the "cornerstone country in the US economic and security interests."

This was seen with criticism from some US analysts, who said the designation was "premature" and "overblown."

Is Malacañang, Secretary Gabriel Claudio, officer in charge of the Office of the Executive Secretary, sought to explain further what the "cornerstone" role of the Philippines would be.

The Philippines' role will be to accelerate Asean's position and act as a conduit between the regional association and Washington, Claudio said.

"It's not as if the Philippines will have a unilateral position and say that this is the position of Asean. It's not as if the Philippines is consulting unilaterally with the United States," Claudio explained over state-run dzRB.

Great honor for RP

He dismissed the skeptics, saying that being given a prominent role in the US's relations with Asean was an honor for the Philippines.

"This is a great honor for our country. What would we rather have—a situation where the United States plays a major role in the affairs of Asean by way of support, by way of consultation, and no role at all for the Philippines?" he said.

According to Claudio, the Philippines was chosen to play the role probably because of its long ties with the US and the Filipinos' good communication skills.

"It puts the Philippines on center stage. We will be the face of Asean to the rest of the world. This has a big impact. There are positive consequences: Trade, investments, cooperation," he said.

Rest Malacañang's allies in the House of Representatives have joined in celebrating the role that the US wants the country to play for it in the Southeast Asian region.

Iloilo Rep. Rodito Mitare, a member of the ruling Lakas Kampi CMD, said that being the US's coordinator with Asean would give the Philippine subordinate status, since it would be performing another country's job.

"It's not a welcome idea or privilege. The Philippines is not a state of the US. If so, why should it be assigned a coordinator role?" the congressman said.

He said the designation of the Philippines as the US coordinator in the region also went against the essence of the 10-member forum, which is to protect the region from outside influences.

"Said would the US be willing to reciprocate this role if we asked them to be our coordinator with Europe and the Middle East?" he said in a statement.

Camiguin Rep. Pedro Romualdo, another ruling party member, said the designation of the Philippines as the US's Asean coordinator was unnecessary.

There are numerous US envoys and officials who are in the job that Obama is asking of the Philippines, he said.

"The US should assign its envoys rather than ask a sovereign country like the Philippines to perform coordination work with other nations. The US should instead ask its ambassadors to perform this task," Romualdo said.

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THE TWO PILLARS OF PEOPLE POWER. Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin. Where will such as these walk our land again to be the country's guardians of peace and justice and act as the nation's conscience? AQUINO-SUNTAY

OUTDISTANCING INCOMING. It is simply my truth, the unanimous surrender of power from President Cory to President Fidel V. Ramos on June 30, 1992. The moment reinforced the country's newly restored democracy. AQUINO-SUNTAY

FVR, Erap join nation in grief

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos expressed grief over the death of his predecessor, former President Corazon Aquino, saying her first demise was a loss not only for Filipinos but for the whole world.

"Not only the entire Filipino nation grieves, but [also] the whole world. Cory Aquino represented the past and the future of our people and led us in the restoration of basic liberties for our people," said Ramos, who took over the presidency when Aquino bowed out of office in 1992.

In an interview with GMA News, he said: "My family condoles with the family and the loved ones of Cory Aquino."

Another former President, Joseph Estrada, said the country lost a mother.

"As president she was humble, strong and compassionate. Where her nerve ended, she presided over a smooth and peaceful transition of power, providing an example in law governance. She did one thing no governor, like both behind a valuable legacy of self-sacrificing leadership," Estrada said in a statement issued through his spokesperson Margaux Salcedo.

Vice President Noli de Castro said Filipinos "will forever be grateful for her heroic sacrifice of offering her leadership as a healing between fight during the dark days of the dictatorship."

De Castro credited Aquino for the return of freedom of expression and of the press. He said that as a former broadcaster, he was able to enjoy this freedom when Aquino assumed the presidency as a result of a people power revolt in 1986.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno called Aquino as "a true servant leader."

"Aquino's legacy will forever be etched in our hearts and minds as long as we yearn for freedom. Indeed, the holiness owes the connection of its independence to President Aquino and we should always keep that light burning," Puno said.

Immortality

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag said the late President "has attained immortality through her legacy."

"In some ways, she has not died. She and her husband are immortal forever in the memory of millions of Filipinos and even in the admirers outside of the country," said Saguisag, who served as Aquino's spokesperson before the latter became President.

Lucoin weeps

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Aquino's former speech writer, wept when he was interviewed on ABC about her. He bowed his head and his shoulders shook as he sobbed.

"Her poverty and nobility were at labor," Locsin said in the interview. "She never asked for anything."

He said he treasured all the times he shared with the former President. Asked what was his best memory of Aquino, Locsin said in a text message: "Every moment."

President Delbin, a former human President, said Aquino's death was a personal loss to him. "Whatever I have learned about good governance, I have learned by watching her closely during her days in Malacañang and during her post-presidency days as 'Citizen Cory,'" Delbin, who served as Aquino's executive secretary, said in a statement.

'Best President'

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim called Aquino "the best president the Philippines has ever had."

"I personally admire her for always courageously standing up for what is right," said Lim who was appointed head of the National Bureau of Investigation during Aquino's presidency.

Flags at half-staff

Lim ordered that flags at the Manila Police District and City Hall as well as in all public schools in the city be flown at half-staff. The flag in front of the statue of Dr. Jose Rizal in the Luneta Park was also lowered to half-staff.

At a requiem Mass offered in Manila for Aquino at the Manila Cathedral Church in Intramuros, St. Mary Arbo Maravilla priest Agustin Ee giving dignity to the country.

"Mary's truly admirable and people should emulate her," said Maravilla. "In that way, the greatest proof of admiration is imitation."

Condolences and gratitude for Aquino's service to the nation poured out from Church leaders who consoled the "the passing away of a great woman."

Holy death

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said Mr Aquino died a "holy death."

"It was a holy death in the midst of physical pain and suffering. Death occurred at three o'clock, the Hour of Divine Mercy. It was First Saturday, the day of our Blessed Mother. This Cory was holding the Fatima Rosary which Sister Lucia gave her many years ago," he said.

Lagdameo and Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, in separate statements, said the country was forever indebted to Mr Aquino for her personal sacrifices in leading the country against the Marcos dictatorship and military adventurism.

Officials who served in the Aquino administration closely remembered her, saying she was the best organizer for democracy because of her goodness.

"I owe President Aquino what I am now," Mehard Magsaysay Jaycee Bunag said on the DyMK television radio special coverage of Aquino's death hosted by De Castro.

Care for soldiers

Bunag said he was the first acting mayor or officer in charge appointed by the former President shortly after she took over Malacañang.

Former Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. remembered how Aquino cared for her soldiers. "When smuggled cigarettes were seized, she said, 'Just give them to the soldiers.' I said, 'Let's just burn them as warning to smugglers.' In the end, she knew were given to the soldiers," he said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said: "Although by a twist of faith, we have had differences and disagreements in politics, I have always held President Aquino in high regard and great respect as a worthy leader of our people."

People's conscience

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called Aquino "the most articulate conscience of the people."

Pimentel, Aquino's interior secretary, lamented the passing of a great democratic icon in this part of the globe.

Sen. Miriam Defensor said: the whole world "owes much to her shining star."

"We saw how the Edsa revolution that was sparked by Tita Cory reverberated globally. It inspired peoples all over Eastern Europe and Latin America to bring about authoritarian rule without violence, in the same vein as the Berlin wall was torn down three years later," said Defensor.

Sen. Loren Legarda said the Aquino's death "should serve to remind us of the kind of courage and unity we should show amid lingering threats to our collective freedom."

Aquino's legacy of inspiring Filipinos to fight for and work for freedom and democracy "will forever be engraved in the hearts of a grateful people," said Speaker Prospero Nograles.

Visit to detainees

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said his favorite memory of Aquino was her visit to political detainees, including him, in 1985 where she expressed solidarity with them.

Ocampo also described the time when he and Aquino honored the late journalist Jose Burgos, and when she joined rallies calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

Business community

Makati Business Club chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. said Aquino helped revive the flagging morale and fortunes of local businesses after the Edsa people power revolt. "She restored the business community's confidence in our country," he said.

MBC executive director Alberto Lim credited how Aquino restored confidence in the local economy. Reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Jerome L. Aba, Cynthia D. Rubeon, Dona Pazzibugan, Nina G. Santos, Dayne Lucas and Michael Lim Ubac

All over the country, the skies cried for Cory

THE HEROES OF MOMMING for millions of people who know or barely know Corazon "Cory" Aquino began as quickly as news of the former President's death spread on radio, TV and the Internet.

Many paused to listen to—or watch the news—on their radios, TVs and PCs, recalling off unscheduled trips to shoreline memorials where prayers were offered for the late President.

Beatriz Sisol, 88, of Tarlac City, said she had been praying for Aquino since she learned from relatives that the former President had colon cancer.

Sisol, who used to work as a seamstress for the Cojuangco siblings and in-laws in the family-owned Hacienda Luisita, learned of Aquino's death after her world of needlework since she had no TV or radio.

Skies cried

In places where the rains were heavy and black clouds loomed on the sun, people said the skies "cried."

In Legazpi City, the roads were almost empty as people stayed home to watch TV and listen to radio broadcasts of Aquino's death.

In Dumaguete City, people with favorite scenes quickly ran off a barrage of blogs and filled chat rooms to spread the news and offer condolences.

Some said internet traffic brought by the murder of people hooked to reports and blogs rising

Nat'l Artist picks GMA's prerogative–Palace

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DEFENDED President Macapagal-Arroyo's choice of seven National Artists—four of whom were added to the three recommended by the selections committee—from criticisms of political accommodation.

Secretary Cabriel Claudio, who is silliest in charge of the Executive Secretary's office in the absence of executive secretary Eduardo Ermita, said the final choices were a "product" of thorough consultation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

"We stand by the list, and we say that it was a product of a thorough process, and we stand by the qualifications, qualities, track record and the reputation of those who were named as special artists," he told state radio dzRB.

Claudio said the track record and qualifications of theater artist Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, filmmakers Manuel Urbano (aka Manuel Conde) and Lino Brocka, Jose J. Capawa, painter Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, novelist Lamberto Francisco, architect Pons Cinco Madrid, and fashion designer Jose Moreno would stand up to scrutiny.

"We can defend their track record and qualifications and the reasons for which they were named National Artists," he said.

Malacañang announced this year's batch of National Artists on Wednesday shortly before President Arroyo left for a working visit to the United States.

According to some concerned artists, Conde, Alcuaz and Francisco were shortlisted in May by the selection committee composed of members of the NCCA and the CCP.

They said the others four were named by Mr. Arroyo, exercising her presidential prerogative.

Leo Martinez, chair of the Film Academy of the Philippines, said that Guidote-Alvarez, who is the NCCA executive director, and Capawa were not included in the shortlist and were not among those considered during the deliberations of the selection committee.

The awarding was based on qualities and not on the nominee's body of work, Martinez said.

According to National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, the composer Ramon Santos was dropped from the list to accommodate Guidote-Alvarez, Capawa, Madrona and Moreno. 33 Outstanding

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 2, 2009
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15

In the desert the whole community of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron and said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of Yahweh in Egypt when we sat down to cauldrons of meat and ate all the bread we wanted, whereas you have brought us into the desert to let this whole assembly die of starvation!"

Yahweh then said to Moses, 'Now I am going to rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to gather what is needed for that day. In this way I will test them to see if they will follow my Teaching or not.

'I have heard the complaints of Israel. Speak to them and say: Between the two evenings you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have bread to your heart's content. Then you shall know that I am Yahweh, your God!'

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp. And in the morning, dew had fallen around the camp. When the dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a fine scale like hoarfrost. The people of Israel upon seeing it said to one another, "What is it?" for they didn't know what it was. Moses said them, "It is the bread which Yahweh has given you to eat."

2nd Reading: Eph 4:17, 20-24

I say to you, then, and with insistence I address you in the Lord: do not imitate the pagans who live senseless lives of life.

But it is not in this way that you have followed Christ, for I suppose that you heard of him and received his teaching, which is true to Jesus himself. You must give up your former way of living, the old self, whose deceitful desires bring self-destruction. Instead, your inner spirituality must make your mind new, and put on the new self, to self according to God, that is created in true righteousness and holiness.

Gospel: Jn 6:24-35

When they saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Master, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you look for me, not because you have seen through the signs, but because you ate from and were satisfied. Work then, not for perishable food, but for the lasting food which gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give it to you, for he is the one God has sent."

Then the Jews asked him, "What shall we do? What are the works that God wants us to do?" And Jesus answered them, "The work God wants is this: that you believe in the One whom God has sent."

They then said, "Show us some other sign, that we may see and believe you. What sign do you perform? Our ancestors ate the manna in the desert, as Scripture says: They were given bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven. My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. The bread God gives is the One who comes from heaven and gives life to the world." And they said to him, "Give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty.

Commentary:

The miraculous multiplication of loaves and fishes was the first time that the Lord provided food to nourish the bodies of his people. Throughout the forty years of the Israelites wandering in the desert, the Lord would intervene by providing them with manna, "the bread from heaven" (Jn 6:31). In history, the people of Israel would survive only because God was faithful to the Lord's Covenant.

The manna in the desert foreshadowed an even more impressive accomplishment, greater even than the feeding of the five thousand in the Sea of Galilee. The Lord, who once provided food from heaven to satisfy the hunger of his people, now feeds us with his Body and Blood, the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation, the food and drink that truly satisfy the hungry. Jesus is the only food and drink that we or have no hungry or thirsty again.

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ETHICKEN - Cory's youngest daughter Kris seems as though she wants to look away but can't help herself but look at her mother who wore rose. Behind her are husband James Yap and their son. PHOTOGRAPHER

'What a great gift we've lost'

From page A-1

ning" Aquino Jr., at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Asked whether it was his mother's wish to have a private funeral, Noynoy Aquino said the former President had been "a private citizen since stepping down" from power in 1992.

"To a degree, we would want to spend as much time as possible as a family with her," he said, pointing out that both his parents had been "public property." (See related story on Page A8.)

Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima

In his homily at a Mass held at the Edsa Shrine at noon yesterday, Fr. Catalino Arevalo, SJ, said Aquino was a gift to the Philippines.

"Which other country has a Cory Aquino? Tayo lang [Only us]," said Arevalo, the former President's spiritual mentor and close friend.

"What a great gift the Lord gave us in her. What a great gift we have lost," he said.

Arevalo narrated his conversation with the Pinoy Kasi on Friday. "The doctors kept on saying she had 72 hours, but she outslept and we [her friend] thought, who is a friend, said, 'She will die tomorrow. She will have to go on a First Saturday because of her devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.'"

Marian devotees cannot themselves to the First Saturday devotion in accordance with the promises of Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia that those who do so will have a happy death.

Arevalo assured those present at the Edsa that Aquino had "a very prayerful death."

"She went to her sleep," he said.

The assembly dead mass at Arevalo (accurate) assembles on Aquino's last hours.

He said that during the Mass he celebrated for Aquino on Friday at the hospital, which was attended by family and close friends, he noticed that Mikee Rep. Teddyboy Locsin had disappeared.

He said Locsin, who wrote Aquino's speeches as President, was later found at the stairwell of the hospital "crying his heart out."

"Everybody loved her. People felt nothing but love for her because of all she have she gave to people," Arevalo said, his own voice breaking.

People from all walks of life, many clad in yellow shirts, braved rain and heavy traffic to attend the Mass for Aquino at the shrine in Edsa Shrine, which was built as a memorial to the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

"Cory loved this church. This place is especially dear to her," Arevalo said.

A Quezon Cire... a 40-hour prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament—was held for Aquino at the Edsa Shrine starting on July 30 until noon yesterday.

Goodbye

At a press conference later yesterday at the Joint Congress and Senate building in Makati City, Noynoy Aquino said he and his four sisters each said goodbye to their mother last week, before she was admitted to intensive care for pain management.

He said doctors had told the family "to [tell her] everything that we wanted to say, because after having morphine in her system she would be taken most of the time and would not be [able] to respond."

Asked how his sisters had taken their mother's passing, he said, "we were cracking." "Of course, it's an emotional moment, but we're all together drawing strength from each other. I think we got even closer."

FLAG-DRAPED COFFIN - At least five honor guards carried the flag-draped coffin bearing the remains of Aquino as the make one to La Salle Green Hills. PHOTOGRAPHER

Noynoy Aquino said there were no last instructions from his mother, whom he recalled as vocal about women things, "were going to the extent of critiquing the [serving (Tagalog) that I normally wear."

He said his mother never complained about her suffering while in hospital, and that even when she was in the intensive care unit last month, she expressed concern over whether he and his companions had eaten.

No-state funeral

The session, along with his mother's spokesperson Deedee Siytangco announced the schedule of the memorial services and the interment.

Public viewing at the La Salle gym starts at 9 p.m. yesterday, to end at 4 a.m. today and resume at 7 a.m.

The public is advised to use Gate 2 of La Salle to enter and exit the premises.

Tomorrow morning, the body will be taken to the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila, where it will stay until Wednesday, the day of interment.

Noynoy Aquino said there would be no state funeral for his mother.

"I have not talked to anybody there, nor am I wanting to talk to anybody there," he said in reference to officials of the Arroyo administration.

But he said he understood that honor guards would be posted at the La Salle gym.

According to the session, the family chose the La Salle gym for the wake because it was a "sizeable venue."

He said the Edsa Shrine had been offered to the family but that the La Salle gym was bigger and, thus, "more appropriate."

But Arevalo said the Edsa Shrine, a part of the four-day People Power Revolt, was also a favorite place of worship for the Edsa Unos.

Beginning and ending

The La Salle gym was also significant in his mother's life, Noynoy Aquino said.

He said it was where the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections entered the race in the 1986 snap presidential election.

But another, it was the venue of his brother's "one-man fight"—an apparent reference to the former President's support for MBN-LTE rebel-turned-Senator Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada.

"It's like there was a beginning and ending there [for her]," he said.

The senator also said no organizing committee led by a cousin had been working on the memorial and interment preparations since a week or two ago.

He said his mother had planned to be buried next to his father "from the very start."

It was his mother who decided to have his father at Manila Memorial Park, he said, adding that the latter had wished to be buried in a mountain in his hometown of Capas, Tarlac.

"And my mom said, 'Sinoy, maybe it's okay here [at Manila Memorial Park] because I am here,'" he recalled his mother as saying in Filipino.

Sib sorrowful repository

Aquino died of cardio-respiratory arrest 30 days before her husband's 26th death anniversary.

"Before she died, her children were around her, praying the 10th sorrowful mystery of the rosary ... That was when the driver her last breath," Tito Sen. Boy Abaroa, a close friend of Aquino's celebrity daughter Kris Aquino, told reporters at the hospital lobby as around 7:40 a.m.

Relating the first few moments of mourning, Abaroa said the family and close friends heard Mass in the former President's hospital room.

"They were quietly sobbing, except for Kris who was very quiet ... She was just shaking with courage," Abaroa said.

While the former President's condition had ranged from stable to guarded and back in the past month, Abaroa described her passing as "unexpected."

"You don't expect things like that. She's been fighting cancer bravely for the past months," he said.

The body was moved to The Heritage Park Mortuary and Crematorium at Fort Bonifacio at around 5 a.m., where it was prepared for public viewing at the La Salle gym.

Relatives and friends trickled into the mortuary for a private gathering, passing tightly secured gates manned by police and Special Weapons and Tactics teams.

Only those whose names were on a prepared list were allowed to enter. With a report from Tarra Quismundo

Palace to respect Aquinos' wish for private funeral

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG IS DEFERring the decision of Corazon Aquino's family to hold a private wake and funeral. "We understand, respect and completely support the decision," Secretary Gabriel Claudio, officer in charge of the Office of the Executive Secretary, said yesterday by phone.

Claudio said that contrary to a statement by a member of the family—an apparent reference to Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino Jr.—Malacañang had offered a state funeral for the former President.

He said Malacañang had sent Secretary Jake Ligamen, senior deputy executive secretary, to coordinate arrangements for the wake and funeral with the Aquino family early yesterday morning.

Claudio said he had also raised the matter in a phone conversation with Aquino's spokesperson Deedee Siytangco but that she indicated that the family preferred a private funeral.

"We were making Malacañang available," he said.

Courtesies and honors

Claudio said the government was extending courtesies, including the deployment of "honor guards" to escort Aquino's casket as well as policemen and soldiers to secure the wake and funeral.

"We're on hand to extend all the state honors due the former President," he said, later adding: "We want to make it clear that all facilities and services are on hand."

Claudio said Gen. Victor Ermita, the Armed Forces chief of staff, had also been coordinating with the family on the arrangements for military services for the former President.

At 6 a.m. yesterday, the Army Air Force said they lowered Aquino-size flags at half-staff, in accordance with Presidential Proclamation No. 1956 declaring a 10-day period of national mourning. (See story on Page A8.)

Claudio has also instructed all personnel of government departments, agencies and offices to hold Masses and offer prayers for Aquino.

Malacañang is allowing a Mass for Aquino tomorrow morning instead of the regular flag-raising ceremony, he said.

Obama leads world in tribute to RP icon

From page A-1

her extraordinary courage after the assassination of her husband, and later, during her service as president.

"She helped bring democracy back to the Philippines after many years of authoritarian rule with a faith in her country and its people that was truly inspirational," the secretary of state said.

Inspiration

Clinton, a mother-first lady who narrowly lost a bid last year to become her Democratic Party's nomination for president, said Aquino served as an inspiration to her and her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Manila is a longstanding Washington ally in Southeast Asia, and President Obama's goal-Arroyo in the region's Asian leader to visit the White House since Obama's January inauguration.

Chinese people shocked

Saying the Chinese people were shocked at the death of Aquino, President Hu Jintao last night extended the condolences of his people to the late Philippine president's family and the Filipinos.

In a statement sent by the Chinese Embassy in Manila and released to Mr. Hu's letter, Hu said that Ms Aquino was an outstanding leader of the Philippines and a good friend of the Chinese people.

He said that during the Aquino presidency, she made significant contributions to the development and consolidation of the Philippines and the growth of China-Philippine relations.

"On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese people and on my own behalf, I would like to extend to Vice Executive Secretary and, through you, to Mariano Aquino's family members my deepest condolences and sincerest sympathy," He said.

The Chinese Embassy said: "The Philippines lost an inspiring statesman while China, in sharp grief, bereaved of a sincere friend."

"Her vision would be remembered and her contributions would be long cherished by China and the Chinese people. May she rest in peace," it said.

Courageous

Ambassador Alistar MacDonald, head of the European Commission delegation to the Philippines, said the European Union and the former President were noble and courageous even in the face of death.

"In 1986, President Aquino became a beacon of democracy in the Philippines, and an inspiration for many others around the world. Throughout her presidential term, and even threatened by a number of serious challenges, she never flinched in her determination to ensure that the Philippines would not veer from its democratic path," MacDonald said.

Ivan Lewis, British foreign office minister of state, in a statement issued by the British Embassy in Manila, said the British government joined the rest of the world in mourning the death of an icon.

Former Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch Brown, who worked closely with Aquino during her election campaign, said he received the news of her death with great sadness.

Life's lesson in courage

"In an address in her campaign against President Marcos, the privilege of working with Cory and watching her was one of my life's greatest lessons in courage, leadership, the art of politics and humanity. The way she and all her family made the sacrifices of service is an example something I have always treasured," Brown said.

For his part, British Ambassador Peter Beckingham said he would cherish the "honor of meeting Aquino on several occasions while she lived here and visits to London and her interests in the Filipino community in Britain.

"Those discussions left me with an overwhelming sense of her grace, charisma and compassion. The Philippines has lost a wonderful leader who is widely admired as fantastic for her courage and inspiration," Beckingham said.

Reports from Cynthia D. Balana and AFP

Padaca backers pledge produce in lieu of funds

THE MOMENT THEY TO CONvince Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca to run for president in 2010 is easing fishermen and farmers, not wealthy businessmen, nobody-fund her presidential campaign.

Some 300 supporters attended the launch of the Kapisig Kay Movement yesterday at Miriam College in Quezon City, where the group announced that farmers in the region pledged some P16,500 worth of produce from their own harvests to her campaign.

Others pledged native chickens and goats as their contribution.

The movement's lead convener Ralph Morales said: "We want to show real people that the coming election is not a time to extort money from the candidates, but a time to give."

There were no prominent personalities during the launch. Padaca herself was not around. Ordinary people took turns addressing the crowd composed of students and farmers from provinces as far as Nueva Ecija, Quezon and Oriental Mindoro.

The movement recognizes that Padaca does not have the money and the machinery to win the presidency.

"The battle traditional politicians and oligarchs alike say that it will be impossible for Padaca to win the presidency ... but our Filipinos do believe in miracles and we have the chance to prove them wrong," it said in a statement.

Kapisig Kays has a website for the campaign: http://grocepadaca.wordpress.com.

The launch was attended by representatives of the Agta community in Ground Ruling, who walked from their mountain village down to Isabela where they took a journey in Queen City They brought with them bananas as they pledged to donate part of their harvest to the campaign.

"We believe that our small contribution will go a long way and will also benefit us and many others in the future," said Agta farmer Napoleon Buenchiche, 33, speaking in Filipino.

He admitted that many of his fellow Agta did not know Padaca, but after meeting the governor in an environment forum early this year and after seeing what she has done for Isabela, Buenchiche has been showing videos of Padaca's projects to his neighbors.

Farmer Benjamin Amantillo, 49, who heads a group of cultivator growers in Divisoria Mindoro, said his members had pledged to each donate at least 10 kilos of cultivated to the campaign.

To raise funds, the movement will sell the products to other members and to interested buyers, said Nonbarang Riluzon ng mga Samahan ng mga Magsasaka (Philsamaa) national coordinator Wael Inocencio Bacacarla.

Some members have already expressed interest to buying the harvests, especially organic crops, he said.

For her part, Siena College student Jessica Angeles promised not only to campaign and vote for Padaca but to donate part of her school allowance to the campaign.

Padaca earlier said that she was open to the idea of running for president, only if the movement would take off.

Padaca, who was stricken with polio as a child, was a hard-hitting radio broadcaster in Isabela who shot to national prominence when she defeated Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. in the 2004 elections, despite a field of money and machinery. —Jikson U. Estella At

3 Pinoy students bag medals in China math tilt

THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS from an award-winning math guild team for the country a silver and two bronze medals in the recently-concluded 5th China Southeast Mathematical Olympiad (CSMO) in Nanchang.

John Stuard Veran from Gideon Academy in Bauig City came away with a silver medal while Zhang Bing Wu of Zamboanga Chong Hua High School in Zamboanga City and Zixin Zhang from Brace Christian College in Quezon City each won a bronze medal.

The three, all of whom trained in the Mathematics Trainers' Guild Philippines (MTG), were the country's only delegates to this year's competition, according to MTG president Dr. Simon Chua.

Veran, Wu and Zhang competed against more than 178 contestants from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, India, Romania and China—four of the annual contests—which was held from July 26 to 31 at the detached Middle School of Jiangxi Normal University.

Both Veran and Wu earlier won a silver and two bronze medals in the 16th World Youth Invitational Mathematics Inventive Competition held last month in Durban, South Africa. Early this year, Wu also won a gold medal at the 2009 International Sephora Mathematics Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"We are very happy our three delegates were medals this year. For the first time in four years, the Philippines won a silver medal in the CSMC," Chua told the Inquirer.—Jerry E. Esplanada

Harsher bill filed vs abortionists

STEPPING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST ABORTION, a party-list representative has filed a bill in Congress imposing harsher penalties on members of the medical profession caught performing the illegal act, as well as on those who sell abortifacients.

Alliance for Rural Concerns party-list Rep. Nerissa Santiago said doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers who perform or assist in abortion should be permanently stripped of their license, apart from being sent to prison as prescribed by law.

Currently, the Revised Penal Code imposes a penalty of from 12 to 20 years in prison for medical professionals who intentionally cause an abortion. Women who consensually undergo an abortion are penalized with a prison term of from six months to six years.

Santiago's measure would remove the criminal liability of women who undergo an abortion if they testify against the health professional who performed the procedure on them.

The bill would also impose a longer prison term on those who dispense abortifacients, or substances that induce abortion.

Under the Revised Penal Code, pharmacists who dispense abortifacients without a proper prescription face imprisonment of from one to six months and a maximum fine of P1,000.

Under Santiago's bill, the penalty would be increased to from six months to six years in prison and the maximum fine would be raised to P20,000. —Leila B. Salaverria

Grateful nation in mourning for Woman in Yellow

Front page A1

In June, in a statement read by a grandson, Cory denounced as a "shameless abuse of power" persisting efforts by President Macapagal-Arroyo's congressional allies to amend the 1987 Constitution. These efforts, critics say, are part of a scheme to postpone the former's presidential term (set to end by noon of June 30, 2010).

It was as though Cory was back on—or had never left—the high ground on which she was thrust into the global limelight 26 years ago.

The victim of the Marcos dictatorship's fearsome victims, Cory became the rallying point of the resistance against the regime and was propelled to the Philippine presidency in a revolution where not a single shot was fired. Democracy was restored in the country in 1986.

For four days in February that year, the world watched as the tension in a bright yellow dress led millions to take on and take out Ferdinand Marcos, who had ruled with an iron fist for two decades.

Early steps

During the next six years, Cory convened a constitutional convention to frame a new Charter and restore democratic processes and institutions.

With a Cabinet cobbled from left to right of the political spectrum, her presidency inherited a host of problems—an economy in its worst state since World War II, a burdensome foreign debt, a burgeoning communist insurgency and an assortment of armed challengers to the primacy of the Marcos dictatorship.

It was also marked by at least six failed coup attempts, political reshuffling and a continuing struggle to overhaul a political system dominated by elite clans.

The Philippines' first woman President revitalized the legislature and judiciary, freed political prisoners and commenced peace talks with communists and Moro secessionists.

Her administration banished the statist economy through deregulation, privatization and decentralization. It dismantled Marcos-era cartels while recovering without legal obstacles part of the ill-gotten, well-concealed wealth of the dictator's family and cronies.

Government presence in business activities was also scaled back with the privatization of 71 government-owned or -controlled corporations.

But a slowing economy and sporadic energy blackouts marred the close of Cory's term. The Senate also refused to ratify an agreement extending the lease of American bases in Clark and Subic, despite her lobbying.

With the election in 1992 of Fidel Ramos, a former general and Cory's chosen successor, her administration accomplishments in her words, the "peaceful political transition perpetuating democracy."

In post-Edsa Philippine history, she was the only President who did not plan to perpetuate herself in power.

Family of privilege

Born into the Cojuangco clan in Tarlac on Jan. 25, 1933, Cory was a product of privilege, power and wealth.

She was the sixth of eight children, two of whom died in infancy, of Jose Cojuangco, a former congressman, and Demetria Sumulong Cojuangco, a pharmacist.

Both of her grandfathers were also legislators. The Sumulongs' bailiwick was the province of Rizal, while the Cojuangcos owned huge tracts of land in Tarlac.

A year after World War II, Cory and her two sisters went to the United States to study. She spent a year in Stevenhill Academy in Philadelphia before transferring to Notre Dame Convent School in New York City.

After finishing high school in Notre Dame, Cory majored in French and mathematics at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the same city.

She returned to Manila in 1953 to study law. She enrolled at the Ateneo University, but did not complete her law course.

Though belonging to a family of politicians, Cory maintained no political ambitions and once thought of a nunnery career.

But all that changed when she met Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., a bright young journalist from another prominent Tarlac clan—and whom she actually first met when she was 9 years old. They got married in 1954.

Married life for Cory then meant raising one of their five children and being supportive of her husband's career. She even confided in an interview that "he discouraged me from having a career ... since staying home was considered accepted once you had a family."

'Wonder Boy'

Ninoy was seen by many as the "Wonder Boy" of Philippine politics who rose in record time from being a reporter, town mayor, provincial governor, to senator in the age of 35.

In September 1972, Marcos declared martial law and jailed hundreds of his opponents and critics, including Ninoy, by then considered a presidentiable and Marcos' most notorious rival.

MASS SUPPORT
Predominantly crowds fill up every inch of Makati City's clock Ayala Avenue, scene of mass demonstrations for Cory Aquino's campaign for the presidency in January 1986. She would be officially installed chief executive after a peaceful people's revolt one month later.

After nearly eight years in prison (often in military confinement), Ninoy was allowed by the Marcos regime to undergo triple bypass surgery in the United States. This was after a hunger strike meant to protest his conviction by a military tribunal caused damage to his heart.

In August 1983, against the advice of friends, Ninoy flew back to the Philippines from exile in Boston to seek an audience with the ailing Marcos. But he was gunned down on the last step of the airliner's stairway, before he could even set foot on his homeland.

Ninoy's gold-minded widow flew back to the Philippines, where she was quickly thrust into the role of uniting the opposition. She already stood as the symbol of the victims of the Marcos regime.

Laban!

Cory, the shy "plain housewife" that she considered herself, helped keep the opposition alive, eventually gaining confidence as a public speaker and rallying the opposition to calls.

Young and old, rich and poor, followers lined trails rally to rally.

Over the next three years, she led almost daily anti-Marcos rallies at Rizal Park in Manila and on Ayala Avenue and Ugong Field in Makati, flashing the "L" sign—for Laban (Fight)—to show defiance to Marcos.

The protests particularly transformed the country's central business district into a seething cauldron of dissent. The gathering political storm took the form of yellow confetti mixing down from Ayala's high-rise offices.

Cory made the leap from protests to politics in 1984 when she signed a pact with other opposition groups to boycott the Batasang Pambansa elections.

But in a controversial move, she later agreed for elections, which led to a split with her brother-in-law, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, who continued to go for a boycott.

Despite the cheating in the elections, 60 of her candidates won.

1M signatures

In 1985, seeking to quell the dissent in the nation once and for all, Marcos acceded to the US request for him to submit to a "snap election."

Journalist and former Ilocos delegate Joaquin "Chino" Roces garnered one million signatures for a petition for Cory to run for president.

"I don't seek vengeance, only justice, not only for Ninoy but [also] for the suffering Filipino people," Cory declared as, with much trepidation, she accepted the nomination of her party as their common candidate against Marcos in the snap election of November 1986.

She made the decision after a day of fasting and prayer.

She undertook an unorthodox campaign, holding audiences in cozy living-room homes, as in her Neri Sts. Romana Cruz part in, "two conveniences and security always shone through her words."

Marcos derided her as "a mere housewife." Cory called him a coward.

In estimated one million people, considered one of the largest political gatherings in Philippine history, assembled for mating de reunion at Rizal Park.

Through Cory won in the unofficial count, Marcos was declared winner of the election at the Batasan on Feb. 15.

To pragmatic politicians, this declaration meant that the game was over.

People Power

But not to Cory. A day after the Batasan declaration, at the Cojuangco building in Makati, she rallied her brother Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and gave him a new command.

He would later reveal after the meeting that Ad Hoc Lieutenant Gen. Fidel Ramos called on the people in a radio broadcast.

What most politicians apparently failed to realize was that Cory had an innate and instinctive ability to sense what the people wanted and felt.

To everyone's amusement, except perhaps Cory, a crowd of over two million showed up. She presented an initial seven-point program aimed at promoting Marcos's step down.

Group businesses and producers were boycotted. Banks were plagued with runs, beer sales plummeted, newspaper circulations shrank.

Thus was People Power born.

Through those four days in February, the tension, the force of using the people and the miracle was the "Cory, Cory" chant of the multitudes on Edsa.

On the fourth day of the revolt, where unarmed civilians massed on Edsa, stopped Marcos tanks with their bodies, rosaries and flowers, Cory took her oath as the country's 11th President at Club Filipino.

The world's high esteem for her became palpable when, just seven months into the presidency, she delivered a much-applauded and historic speech before a joint session of the US Congress in September 1986.

Citizen Cory

In retirement, Citizen Cory remained in the public eye, often speaking out against abuses in government.

She fought moves to amend the Constitution during the terms of President Fidel Ramos and his successor, President Joseph Estrada.

While Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Cory also lent her presence to Edsa II—considered a reprise of the bloodless People Power revolt of 1986—which forced Estrada out of Malacañang in 2001 on charges of corruption.

She later became a vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose family has been accused of massive corruption.

In 2005, following allegations of massive fraud in the 2004 presidential election, Cory publicly called on Mrs Arroyo to resign from office.

Last year, she virtually apologized to Estrada for helping oust him from the presidency.

Cory supported programs promoting people empowerment, peace and human rights, largely through the Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Foundation.

She continued to join street protests against the Arroyo administration until she was diagnosed with colon cancer in March 2008.

Inspiration

In private life, Cory was said to have found joy in her eight grandchildren and in her hobby—painting landscapes and still life.

In 2006, Time magazine named her one of Asia's heroes, praising her "quiet courage" and describing her as "the symbol of People Power and an inspiration to others around the world struggling against tyranny."

Cory then said: "I don't know how [people] will judge my presidency but I hope they will realize it was not only restoring democracy after a dictatorship."

Sources:
https://www.coryaquino.ph, Time magazine, Inquirer Archives, AFP
—To Help Us God" by J. Eduardo Malaya and Jonathan Malaya.

A STEP OF REMEMBRANCE Yellow ribbon does it.

FREEDOM ICON Visitors line up to pay their last respects to the late former President Corazon Aquino at La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Ms. Jennifer Cristobal, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Sanofi Pasteur, Inc. since April 25, 2009. Sanofi Pasteur, Inc. shall not be liable for her activities and transactions concerning the company and its products after the said date.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In line with the DOH-BFAD ADVISORY No. 2009-007 dated July 28, 2009, Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., the only authorized importer and distributor of the BFAD Registered Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (VAXIGRIP), would like to warn the public on the proliferation of counterfeit VAXIGRIP, flu vaccines.

We illustrate below the main distinguishing marks of an authentic/ BFAD registered VAXIGRIP versus the counterfeit VAXIGRIP as the reference.

AUTHENTIC	COUNTERFEIT
Authentic Vial Identification • Vial is leaner and taller • Vial cap is dark green • Vial label is machine-cut with printed "10" on the upper right hand corner • Vial is not sealed with plastic	**Counterfeit Vial Identification** • Vial is shorter and wider • Vial cap is light green • Vial label is indistinctly cut with rough edges • Vial is "sealed" with plastic wrap • Batch Details: Manuf 19 Dec 08; Lot D12228; Expiry Date: 18 Dec 09

The NBI has confiscated counterfeit VAXIGRIP vaccines with the following **Batch No. D12228, Manufacturing Date: 18 Dec 08, Expiry Date: 18 Dec 2009**

If you think you have similar counterfeit product or know of any individual offering suspicious VAXIGRIP vaccine, we strongly advice you to report this to BFAD at 02 809 4380 local 1131 (Regulation Division I) or the Sanofi Pasteur hotline number stated below.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Our eternal flame, our Cory

From page A1

It is only fitting that the Filipino who tried to institutionalize active non-violence in our bloodstained political culture inspired a similar sense of loss among Filipinos as that experienced by Indira Gandhi inspired Cory's husband) and what Ninoy set out to do, she continued after his cruel murder. Non-violence has been, ever since, the dominant means to accomplish change in our country—a revolution in thought, accomplished by prayers, marches, candlelight vigils.

EDITORIAL

"The light that has illuminated this country for these many years will illumine this country for many more years," Ninoy went on to say. "And a thousand years later, that light will be seen in this country and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable hearts."

What was that light? It was the small but steady flame of personal conviction and conscience that never flickered even when the country and those she considered her nearest and dearest shunned her—ignoring her, even castigating her, because her husband chose to endure imprisonment rather than submit to the dictator.

It was a light that comes from a faith that led her to kneel, not in submission or surrender to the brutality and blandishments of the dictatorship, but to scrub the cell of her imprisoned husband on the rare occasions she was able to visit him; and which continued to bring her to her knees, in quiet contemplation and prayer, as she and her husband were into exile and then, in the years after his death, when his cause became hers to take up.

It was the light of liberty, the unquenchable flame of democracy, the light of optimism and faith in the Filipino, snuffed out in her husband's case by an assassin's bullets, but which lit so many more little flames, so that it dispelled the darkness that had engulfed the country since 1972. It was a light that could not be extinguished by coups and uprisings, by the mocking of those who came to her merely a woman, merely a widow, merely a person trying to remain power where it belonged—in the people's hands, to do with as they chose.

Cory Aquino's inner light came to the fore once more, after the relinquished power—the only president in our history who never actively sought power but actively sought to relinquish it, fully and on time, once she had that power. It made her stand up whenever democracy was imperiled, she was applauded for it, and feared for it; others still could not understand what was so clear to her. That its unpreferentiation was born of such crisis never having fully understood that inner light, which never regained the active quest for popularity that marks the mere politician.

This was the light we took from Ninoy and Cory, which we passed from candle to candle, as we all proclaimed it would be better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. This was the light that was celebrated in our supreme moment of national redemption and vindication.

But for now, hearts are heavy, and there will take place the final series of farewells, from the humble to the great panoply of the honors of State; but throughout, we shall be—as she was—bringers and nurturers of the light, a light that shall never go out so long as the love of liberty burns brightly in our hearts—as it now, eternally does in Cory's and Ninoy's.

As for the rest—the pomp and circumstance that surround the passing of a former head of state—her final wishes as expressed by her family are instructive. The cannons of the military honored their hourly salute; the flags will be lowered to half staff; a single guard of honor will keep vigil. But as for everything else, the pomp Fenian and Marcos entered from undistressed exile, Cory with utter simplicity declined. Her side accompaniment as she goes to her final resting place beside her beloved Ninoy will be those for whom Ninoy died and for whom she lived: we, the people, without distinction as to protocol, or station in life. As in 1983, so it is in 2009: Cory, the people, together to demonstrate that the real power, glory and honors are not for officialdom to bestow, but instead, the Filipino people's to freely give. And as it was in 1986 so it is now: seated, in the streets, to remembrance and democratic deliberation to our eternal flame, our Cory. So let those days of mourning be days of commemoration, of meeting, however briefly, that long-elusive sense of national unity we must aspire to always. And let us march, as we had marched,—not merely to bid farewell, but to continue along the path from which too many have strayed: the path of an uncompromising, stubborn dedication to the Fight for liberty.

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The way to read the Sona of 2009

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHday, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes delivered the following remarks at a radio tribute in his honor on March 7, 1931:

"In this symposium, my part is only to sit in silence. To express one's feelings in the end means that it is too intimate a task.

"But I may mention one thought that comes to me as a lawyer. The riders in a race do not stop short when they reach the goal. There is a little finishing canter before coming to a standstill. There is the time to hear the kind voices of friends and to say to oneself: The work is done. But just as one says that, the unstrung tension. The race is over but the mark is never done while the power to work remains. The canter that brings you to a standstill need not be only coming to rest. It cannot be while you still live. For to live is to function. That is all there is to living."

"Had so I said with a kiss from a Latin poet, who uttered the message more than fifteen hundred years ago, 'Death plucks my ear and says: Live—I am coming.'"

I could not help but remember this admirable and short lesson from Justice Holmes in connection to the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo that she delivered last Monday to a confused and hopefully indifferent audience.

According to the learned, that speech lasted 57 minutes and 12 seconds and was supplemented by submission of the President to matters power and contains, still serious graphs, fewer slide compositions, and other materials produced by the Malacañang minute workers with the assistance of executive females as well as paid evasion from the "masses" to give some authenticity to the bogus presentation.

What she said depended on the audience she was addressing. To those who sincerely loved her, she spoke the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. To those who detested her, and there were thousands upon thousands of them, her every word was pure treasure.

The diplomatic corps was there in Congress, to diplomatically listen to what she said, essentially in the universal language of which they did not understand a single word. There were an confused at the Muslim rebels in Mindanao, including the so-called Bangsamoros, who were welcomed as members of the First Nation.

The President's husband was there, the unmistakable Miguel Ibrahim, together with his children and their separate families, who all swear by their mother's word as affirmed by the members of her Cabinet headed by the lady-in-waiting Alabastro as incredible patriots and the late Ambassador Mike Defensor who offered P10,000 out of his own private funds to Jun Lozada's midnight salvage by the Lo Sullo brothers.

Here would be Prospero Regodos who delivered the applause from the Speaker's chair of the members of the House of Representatives in every sentence (OA) uttered including those she simply made the decision to upgrade their obvious but clear objections. Most of them were elegant hanong-hanong, to match their wives' expensive costumes that serve a minimum to their natural effervescence, except for a few exceptional ladies with dreams of becoming the next First Lady.

The trouble is that the present President may have dreams of remaining in power by the process of changing the Constitution that will make her the prime minister and the future head of the government immune from civil and criminal liability. Despite her subsequent claims for Sona, she cleverly avoided talking of her future plans as if to live by Justice Holmes' belief that "the truth is never done while the power to work remains."

That would certainly be true of the worthy Chief Justice who continued on the UP Supreme Court until his retirement in 1931 at age 91. But it cannot be true of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who, at the early age of 62, the people are so tired of her and want her to retire and leave the direction of the nation in the hands of more capable and braver leaders.

The way to read the Sona of 2009 is to understand it by the opposite of what it says. When it promises a better future for our country, read instead its threat of a worse condition for our people. Where she talks about a richer economy for our people, think instead of the deterioration of our agriculture and the decline of our industrialization program. The improvement of our children's education will fail instead of increasing the rate of literacy, which is low enough as it is. Criminality will rise even in broad daylight instead of disappearing even in the darkness of our torrid nights. And Mindanao will become further away from the national government in Manila instead of becoming part and parcel of the one and solid nation.

The Sona of President Arroyo should be a thank-you address of the nation and the people and a straightforward attempt on the part of the government and the people working together instead of at cross purposes to improve the common welfare. It should not be a Trade A report of the achievements of the administration only. The Sona of the true President should be a bold submission of the need for the people's sacrifices and sympathy even as he should also be entitled to their applause and support for his/her/ours accomplishments.

Pointers

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Please remember that public service is not about convenience and commissions! Cory, a true public servant, puts too soon.

President Cory reminds us that we all will die. We, even presidents die. President Cory is as reminds us that we should have an eternal life plan, and most prayers an end plan from this life. At the end of our lives, may we have no or little regrets that we loved too little too late. May we not have bonds filled with prejudices, and commodities, and not have hearts empty of those that are worthy and honorable.

* * *

President Cory has proven that it is possible to live a good life, even as a public servant. Her death is a clear statement that is possible to exit from public service and, indeed, from this ever life, without shame, offering inspiration till the very end.

* * *

A beautiful life. A beautiful death. President Cory was taken by the Lord at 6 a.m., the hour of great mercy, on a first Saturday of the Lady.

* * *

"Unless a grain of wheat falls and dies, it will not bear much fruit." Let the death of President Cory bear fruit in each one of us that we become better persons; and in our country that we become a better nation and better Filipinos. She restored democracy to our country and decency in public service in 1987. It's 2009. Where are we now? What are we doing? Where is democracy? Where is decency? May President Cory not die in vain.

* * *

What is a pointer? A pointer is one who makes a point. A pointer is one who makes a point precisely because he/she points to something or someone greater than himself/herself. Jesus, by His life and death, pointed to the Father and the hereafter. President Cory, by her life and death, pointed to both in God and faith in the Filipino people, in realizing her husband Ninoy's belief that, indeed, "the Filipino is worth dying for."

* * *

Those people who point at themselves usually end up living pointless lives. Sooner or later, they end up imprisoned by their own greed and unbridled desires.

* * *

Speaking of pointers, I was at the Camp Aguinaldo Philippine Security Prison for a Mass with prisoners last Thursday, upon the invitation of Assistant Solicitor General Joel Mendoza, who is very active in the prison apostolate. After the Mass, the inmates sang a song titled "Before the Writing Ended" (Hindi Pa Huli Ang Lahat). Yes, there are many of us in the outside world who are not free because of prisons within and outside us.

* * *

"It is only bodies that are separated, but hearts always remain united, especially to Him, for whom the sacrifice is made of leaving all that is dearest." To the Aquino family: One with you!

* * *

PHILIPPINE 3YO CENTENNIAL MOMENT: When an SVD missionary is buried, he carries with him nothing in the casket except the surplice worn that was given him when he was ordained for his mission. It is the same mission that was entrusted to him on his priesthood, to his sleeping and waking hours, in his work, in his trials, in his loneliness, in sickness and in death. Indeed, we carry nothing with us when we leave this world, except the love we have shared.

* * *

Moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me see to live a pointless life. Amen.

Jolting assault on JBC

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

as a RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE AND AN EX OFFICIO chief of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), I voluntarily protest Malacañang's assault on the JBC's integrity and independence. The JBC member took the form of a jolting letter, signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, concerning without any legal justification the council's list of nominees for vacancies in the Supreme Court to fill up the two vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Selection of Justices. Under the Constitution, "the Members of the Supreme Court and judges of the lower courts shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least three nominees prepared by the Judicial and Bar Council for every vacancy . . . Any vacancy shall be filled within 90 days from the occurrence thereof."

To fulfill this mandate, the JBC—after a protracted screening process—sent the Palace, many weeks ago, a list of six nominees. Since the ranks of the vacancies caused by the retirement of Justice Minita Chico-Nazario and Dante O. Tinga—Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno is a constitutional fixture.

The nominees are no pushovers. They include four senior career jurists and two private lawyers, namely Court of Appeals Justices Martin Villarama Jr., Jose Mendoza and Mariano del Castillo; Sandiganbayan Justice Francisco Villaruz; Dean Rubentito Abad of the University of Santo Tomas College of Law; and 1967 bar topnotcher Rodolfo Nobles, himself a former law dean. At least two of them are fairly close to the administration.

By requiring all of the six, Ermita virtually asked the JBC of not doing its job, to forfeit its mandate to screen. By telling the council to add more names acceptable to the Palace, Ermita challenged its independence. The Constitution chose to placed the JBC "under the supervision of the Supreme Court," not under the President

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [illegible]

Editor Juan F. Sarmiento Jr.

Silent voices and Facebook

By Elizabeth Lobregat

THIS ANIMAL CALLED "CREATIVE NONFICTION," particularly biographical and autobiographical narratives, even the memoir, is experiencing a resurgence. Works under this genre are outselling novels, collections of short fiction, drama and poetry. This phenomenon may have something to do with why reality television is also more popular than fictitious TV series.

PHOTO: Oscar Campomanes

At the First University of Santo Tomas Narrativazo-I (Double Narrative national workshop on area criticism in Baguio in April, I caught the end of the first session when Prof. Oscar Campomanes of the famous English Department and the UP Diliman School said some kind of buzz about autobiographical narratives. It was a confirmation of a vague notion that I might be on to something by being the keeper of too many typewriters.

He agreed that creative nonfiction was outstripping every other literary genre.

"Think of Facebook accounts as life narratives in daily installment capsule. Those accounts are a straightforward run-down that we create with information, vivid, stylized descriptions of our affective states, ephemeres, both interesting and banal, photos, quotes, etc., with the difference that they are interactive or intrinsically 'networked' with the life-keeping of others (friends!), as opposed to the highly private diary of yore," Campomanes said.

Bestseller from start

Campomanes, a teacher of writing, semiotics and literature, said historically "the autobiographical and biographical narrative were preferred from the beginning, particularly with what (French philosopher) Michel Foucault called the invention of the personal signature from the 18th century onwards. In our time, the taboos curiosity is at times insatiable, as evidence a genuine expression of interest about subjectivity, particularly if they are public personalities of a sort, from the celebrity to the rich; or sexually indulged in the fashion of tycoon Lipunlal."

Kristin Bolaños has seen in her 39 years with Anvil Publishing Inc. how nonfiction books fly off the shelves faster.

Pal Medina

She said, "Every year we look at our top 200 sellers and almost 100. After each books, titles by certain personalities have always become iconic, not just by their books but by other media forms, are the new sellers: Pal Medina, Jessica Zafra, Ambeth Ocampo, Damton Severino, Dr. Margie Holmes, Jaime Licauco, Gary Quinlec, Quenne Lee-Chua, Dr. Honey Consching. They sustain this following by consistently writing books through the years."

Other popular books are what Bolaños called "thematic nonfiction anthologies where 15 to 15 people write their real life stories. They are taking off because these experiences resonate with those of readers. Or readers become an audience watching other people's lives as they unfold in book pages.

Reality TV in print

In the old days they call this voyeurism; now it's reality TV in print. Real life has become more interesting, more gripping, more shocking than any writer might imagine or make up as fiction."

Campomanes put his narratives in this context: "In the third decade of the 20th century, a publishing niche emerged. There arose interest in the life narratives of people who are ordinary unknowns, who did not distinguish themselves and whose experience a personality type from a particular community.

Radical otherness

"In late 18th century France, an industrial organization began to stamp, many workers lost their jobs. They became itinerants, cramping all over the place. They previously small world was shattered as they encountered other strangers in the big world." Campomanes said.

Bolaños said she was surprised by 39 years with Anvil Publishing Inc. how nonfiction books fly off the shelves faster.

"When these narratives were discovered and read, they made for a fascinating read. It was radical. Otherness, different from the life narratives of the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie," Campomanes said.

He said, "Confessional writing asks the author to make himself or herself available to judgment by the reader. The author makes visible the raw nerve feeling of vulnerability. This feeling solves the writing process so that it almost becomes fictional, selective and partial. Any detail that might not comport with the idea of an idealized self is edited out.

"The most amazing insight that came out of the study of autobiographical forms of writing is the writing of a life, or the narrative of a self, is an event into the same a making of a life, a making of a self," Campomanes said.

The notion that you are or somebody else is authorized to write about you when you're old or dead no longer holds, he said.

In other words, he said, "While you are writing, you are making your life, your self. The act of writing gives you a sense of coherence, a standard of self." If we assume a Lacanian term of Jessica, writing leads to "self-empowerment" and "self-formation."

Jade Snow Wong

In the United States, Campomanes studied the life of Henry Adams, a relative of a US president, who "used the third person point of view, rare for autobiographies."

The only other one I know who used this narrative strategy is the same unrelated effort was Chinese American writer Jade Snow Wong in 1950. Chinese Daughter" in typically her cultural-specific (Hall) personal role as of politeness, she gender bias, of traditional Chinese culture. Daughters are expected to refer to themselves (in the third person whenever in deference to their social with family parents or elders."

He said, Adams used the strategy to evoke something of the burden of belonging to a Boston Brahmin family and he was writing in the aftermath of two US presidents and as sibling to America's most famous historian in the late 19th century Brooks Adams.

"Grandpa Abigail Adams was remembering as celebrity in New England when it was not possible for women, even of the high estate, to have a public face. Adams almost willfully decided not to release private her long shadow cast by his family," Campomanes said.

Deep well of experiences

Still on the subject of self-story lives, I asked Carolina Mendoza, Malay's former national Bienaventurado Pinoy poster superstar and retired UP poet-academic professor, what it was like spending nearly 20 years in the underground gathering the life stories of farmers and workers.

She said, "When I went full-time in the movement, my writing aimed to arouse, mobilize, organize the farmers. I wrote for cadres in the movement's level of whom were peasants and workers. There were creative writers who wrote about the lives of the masses as their subject."

She continued, "Dealing constantly with the people, conversations, story-telling were common. The themes taught me much: passion is unique while is typical life. All you need is a genuine interest in them. They should feel that you respect them.

"It was the other they taught me, which was more than I learned from books. I would not have been inspired nor would have lasted that long in the movement. I like to think that my work improved because of the deep well of experiences I drew from," she said.

I also asked Malay if the had time for music and, more reflective, personal type of writing. She answered, "There was time for that. The sad and rhythm of our work was there would be months when we would be so busy there would be seasons when I could quietly reflect."

Prisoner

Her series for personal expression and thoughts were her letters to husband Satur Ocampo, a political prisoner from 1976 to 1986. She wanted to share the stories she had gathered, apart from the changes going on in her life.

"I wanted him to know my spirit becomes I was studying," she said. "I sent a series of letters that I titled 'Universal love dealings with the people, conversations, story-telling were common. The themes taught me much: passion is unique while is typical life. All you need is a genuine interest in them. They should feel that you respect them.

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PHOTO: Bolaños of Anvil

DR. ENRIQUE C. Lobregat Jr., as a young man, in this undated photo, Lobregat rides a bicycle in downtown Puerto Baguio City.

COURTESY OF FAMILY

Bullying in grade school

She cited Bob Ong, who is not an Ateneo student. "He writes only of his life from when he was a grade-school student, being bullied, etc. His books are doing well. No one has met Ong, only his editor and publisher-spend for him. The rumor is his books are written by a writers' collective," Bolaños said.

This is my chance to plug "Bagnio Calligraphy" and "The Bagnio 9th Love," two multi-film grant anthologies from the Cordillera's premier city, edited by Bagnio Writers Group and, words Francis Macansantos, Luz B. Maximan and Grace Celesio T. Subido and to be published by Anvil in time for the 2009 national celebration in September.

Joyful turbulence

The generation instead living writers are represented here: from Cecile Afable, born in 1914, to Sotera Oyer, born in 1964. The second volume, "The Bagnio 9th Love," is devoted entirely to creative nonfiction.

Campomanes called this "a wonderful development, a democracy becoming real." When people who, as a matter of social class or social conditions, were not allowed or were not supposed to speak and now find their voices, the result is a joyful turbulence of the writings."

His other way of putting it is "the polemical clash and plurality of voices overturning social positions."

Elizabeth Lobregat is a freelance writer and Fine Arts student at UP Baguio.)

Father's conversation with other self

GENERAL DAYS AFTER MY father, Enrique Castillo Lobregat Jr., died in January 1992, my brother Eric found a black diary tucked among Daddy's clothes. None of us, including my mother, were aware that he had kept this notebook where he took effect. Upon opening the cover, the typed text transferred to his personality: "For Kimi Only."

Kimi, Hermanito, my first-born, is my parents' first grandchild-boy and apparently Daddy's favorite because he left her this record of his life. She was six years old then.

First, last entries

His first entry began on Dec. 2, 1990. The last was dated Jan. 2, 1992. These entries were written while he was writing or doing medical outreach in Barangay Union Sur, Mobukid, Pangasinan.

He filled up left pages of the diary. The right pages were blank. There is four days after he wrote his last entry he suffered a stroke. He spent more than a month at the Veterans Center ICU where his organs failed him one after another, part of the complications of his diabetes, until he died.

In his diary he attempted to "explain" himself. He was idealized self is edited out.

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DR. ENRIQUE C. Lobregat Jr., as a young man, in this undated photo, Lobregat rides a bicycle in downtown Puerto Baguio City.

COURTESY OF FAMILY

married (clergy?) with words in person, the perfect foil to my thorny studies.

Mistake

He wrote, "Becoming a doctor must have been my greatest mistake because Dad wanted me to be an agriculturist. I did not heed him because I did not want to end up a businessman. Dad offered to finance my studies at UP Los Baños or Silliman University. I didn't listen.

"But my first love remains agriculture. Since I was a child, I was fond of plants and animals. I love to watch things grow. I have an organic. Believe me when I tell you that I have not enriched myself to the medical profession. He can say that all my services are offered to my fellowmen.

"I still wonder why? Because a doctor is more have been by accident. After high school I was undecided on what college course to take. Two classmates told me to take up medicine with them at the University of Santo Tomas. I finished that course, but one of them finished only four years past. The other one dropped out after pre-med. They have become my compadres. Such notion of fate.

"My only consolation is I have made friends. Some people love me, I think. I have not made enemies although I know a few don't like me. I have been the class-childhood and still am. That is why people think I'm captain (candidate) which I'm not.

"I want to recall my past while my sally sound eye is still functioning. My sight is failing me. I'm afraid one of these days that light will turn to darkness. Kimi, I dread that day when I will no longer be able to see you but solely feel you the way my great grandmother did.

Six-year-old's eyes

"I was six when I spent my vacation in Barrio Bileday Barrenos, La Union. My mother introduced me to my great grandmother who was totally blind. She placed her fingers all over my face and neck and started uttering words that I could barely comprehend. Nevertheless, I think she must have been overjoyed to meet her great grandson."

What was my father's point when he wrote a diary he filed? Prof. Dionne Campomanes reminded that Daddy might have warned Kimi, now 24, to read the diary with a six-year-old's eyes. Eric's stipulation "For Kimi Only" might have also stood for "an ideal reader." Daddy's composition was made up of simple, declarative sentences addressed to a "you" (Kimi).

Never alone

When you are writing a diary, who are you addressing? Campomanes said, "Language is what enables us to speak as individuals. But to speak always in company, to country or with another because the individual is always social. The 'I' is never alone; it presupposes a 'you.'"

So, when you keep a traditional diary, journal, double book and dream notebook or log on to Facebook, Twitter or Plurk, you are enlisting yourself into new the self and the other self. Campomanes said, "You are never alone. A diary is a conversation with your other self, a way of easing solitude or even loneliness. You are with your other self."

Elizabeth Lobregat

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Across The Nation Editor Nina A. Alcantara

Critic of ceasefire warns of militias

COTABATO CITY—North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol warned about the possible emergence of a group of armed civilians in North Cotabato following Malacañang's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

But a ranking rebel leader said a group of armed civilians already exists in North Cotabato even before the suspension of military operation was announced on Thursday.

"I don't know if he was just turning a blind eye on it but the Bagi (unit) has long been monitored. I believe he knows about its existence. They are armed civilians and they are responsible for atrocities against Muslim communities," Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military affairs chief, said.

Kabalu was referring to a vigilante-styled band of Christians, which was active during the 1970s. The Bagis became notorious for dismembering their victims, mostly Muslims.

Atrocities

Kabalu said the recent atrocities involving the Bagis were one reason violence erupted in North Cotabato in July last year.

He said Bagi members killed several Moro residents in Pikit, Aleosan and Midsayap towns, which triggered retaliatory attacks from their relatives in the MILF.

The violence eventually expanded to Magpetdetsan and Lanao del Norte.

The military has blamed the MILF for the violence, saying guerrillas under Ameril Ombra Kato and Abdullah Macapaar initiated the attacks against civilian communities.

Piñol, who earlier described Malacañang's declaration of "historic move," said without security measures from the military, residents would take up arms to avoid becoming sitting ducks.

"What will they do when harassed? Of course the civilians will automatically think of defending themselves as a normal instinct of survival from possible MILF excesses to their lives and properties," he said.

War hawk

Peace advocates and members of areas untouched groups told they were dismayed at Piñol's warning about civilians taking up arms.

Lawyer Mary Ann Arnado, of the Mindanao People's Caucus, labeled Piñol's statement as "unproductive and unrealistic."

"While we are trying to help alleviate the problem of innocent civilians displaced due to government-MILF fighting, his views created tension and apprehension," Arnado said.

"We've been waiting for this government declaration of a ceasefire, and we're happy it did. Even the evacuees were very happy, all looking forward to return to their communities," she said.

Exec. North Cotabato Gov. Jesus Sacdalan said the immediate resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the MILF would create the right environment for development in the war-torn province.

"When children are asked which they prefer—bullets or bulls—they quickly answered bulls," Sacdalan said, recalling a recent dialogue he's poses.

The Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society Organizations (CBCSO), a group advocating peace in Mindanao, said women and children's welfare was one of the issues that residents of conflict-affected provinces want to include in the renewed peace negotiations.

The CBCSO said during consultations, residents urged that women and children are the most adversely "affected victims of the society in times of war."

Indeed, more than half of fatalities from crossfire and in evacuation camps have been women and close to 40 percent of them were children of age 0-15 years old, according to the Save the Children Foundation.

Mindanao Bureau, Charlie C. Señase and Ryan O. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

MEMBERS of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front pass in front of the group's flag in one of their camps in the jungles of Datu Piang, Maguindanao. The MILF has recently ordered its guerrillas to take a defensive position following a ceasefire declared by the government and guerrilla leaders.

Maranao art of langsay making kept alive in Tagum City

By Princess L. Lim
Tagum City

"Langsay making is an integral part of the Maranao way of life. But with the emigration of the new generation from Lanao to Tagum and to other areas, the practice is also slowly being forgotten..."

HER FINGERS, WRINKLED by time, diligently performing the revived ramming stitches and her eyes blinking a rareness or two for a needed rest, Amina Yahya squatted in a corner of the room. In front of her was a green cloth sewn with the half-finished figure of a bunch of roses, spread and tacked on a wooden frame.

Yahya was doing the *langsay*, a special form of art known to Maranao women.

Langsay, an art of sewing designs using colorful beads on cloth synonymous to the Mindanao people's rich culture, has found a revival in the Christian-dominated Tagum City in Davao del Norte.

With the help of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the local government gathered several Muslim women and started the program, according to Ayesar Mandel, the city's project coordinator.

Fifteen of them, from young girls to the elderly like Amina, are taught and trained to do the craft. A cultural master or teacher taught the participants the basics of the art orally, so a lively and friendly environment is ensured.

The sessions are done in Barangay Madaum, where most of the participants come from.

Slowly forgotten

"Langsay making is an integral part of the Maranao way of life. But with the emigration of the new generation from Lanao to Tagum and to other areas, the practice is also slowly being forgotten," Mandel said.

The "tradition" came from the city's four tribes—Kalagan, Ivatan, Tausug and Maranao—whose peoples moved decades ago from western Mindanao to Tagum and the rest of Davao del Norte.

"[A] majority of them are Maranao, but we also invited them from other tribes," said Perti Ontomo, the cultural master or teacher.

Mandel said the project emerge some from concerns of the elders that the art would vanish if it is not taught to the younger generation of Maranao Muslims.

"During our time, the young ones were doing the *langsay* with much enthusiasm. Now, 75 occupied more than one. They're now very busy," the 58-year-old Yahya said as she sewed another bead into a sprout of the rose.

Ontomo calls her "my fellow teacher" because of her mastery of the craft.

Yahya said she had a hard time convincing the young in her household to follow her cherished hobby.

"So when we observed, those doing the *langsay* are getting older and elders so there's really a need to teach the craft to the young," Mandel, a Tausug, said.

Maranao designs

But Yahya is slowly becoming successful. With the wide gyre of a proud grandmother, she pointed her needle at a 13-year-old girl who sat in a corner, doing the finishing touches to her *langsay*, a sewn lecturing of the words "IMAUM CIT" on white cloth.

"I liked watching what my mother and my grandmother were doing so I asked them to teach me," said Rosalina Yahya.

Rosalina said she learns to sew flowers and her grandmother taught her to do intricate Maranao motifs, like the "sabi" and the "sarimanok."

She dared your modern of one of the city's high schools said her Maranao peers are less interested in learning the laborious craft.

"They would prefer watching TV or texting to friends than enduring the back-breaking sewing," she said, adding that it would take from hours to days to finish a single eminent design.

Livelihood

Ontomo said the workshop, which would end on Aug. 1, also aimed to help Muslim women find alternative sources of livelihood, "than for them to spend their spare time to gossip and do other useless things."

The *langsay* is done first by pencil drawing the design patterns on *sequence* on the cloth. Then, the cloth is spread on the wooden frame, next using pins for support. Sewing of the plastic round and bamboo-like beads follows.

Spangle-ornate jewelry are used to serve as final ornaments and kicks to the heads.

Mandel said that as the project advanced, the attention of other Muslim tribes in Tagum, he was optimistic that the art would be "replicated" by these groups.

Rosalina Sacaban, a Kalagan woman whose designs are used for trunks in the roadroads (school), said *langsay* elevates to the highest form their similar practice of putting designs on cloth by just gluing them.

"*Langsay* designs are sewn on the cloth so the art stays no matter how many times you iron or wash the cloth," Sacaban, another trainee, said.

Market

The designs could be sewn in a small cloth measuring several square inches or a 15-m rectangular piece.

The local government, according to Mandel, is vigorously pushing for a market of the langsay. Finished products of the craft commands a considerably high price in some selling indigenous products in Davao City for sold.

Mandel said a non-governmental organization, the Tagum City Business Council (TCTC) led by Alma Uy, wife of Tibiyo Boy Uy, would invite Rajo Laurel, one of the country's top fashion designers, to explore the possibility of introducing the art to his designs.

Cultural contribution

But on top of the economic benefit *langsay* could give, it is a contribution to Mindanao culture that transcends, according to Mandel.

"The good thing with the project is that others participate losing a commonality in their cultures, meaning, they tend to practice that 'making better' like singing songs they customarily know thus keeping their cultures alive," he said.

MUSLIM woman busy with the art of *langsay* making in Maranao, Tagum City. The *langsay* is a stanza symbol for the Maranao, playing an important part in the Maranao family's gathering.

DILG's Dagdag Puhunan project spurs entrepreneurship

Selling slippers is fun according to this vendor in Barangay Dela Paz in Antipolo City. She is one of five vendors in a group that combined capital to sell other items such as balloons and rags. They are beneficiaries of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program and the *Dagdag Puhunan para sa Kabuhayan ng Pamilya* project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DILG project is also part of the government's Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program.

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TECHNOMED INTERNATIONAL INC

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Line between pro, anti-GMA blurred

Binay says he can't tell difference in politicians trying to enter oppo

BAGUIO CITY—THE LINE DISTINGUISHING POLITICIANS opposed to and supporting the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo has been blurred, according to opposition leader Jejomar Binay.

Binay, also mayor of Makati City, said in an interview here that many politicians are claiming to be anti-Arroyo when previously they had supported the President.

He said the success of the populace that the opposition will try to solve when it threatens its standard bearer and other members of it this month or in September.

Binay, president of the United Opposition (UNO), said only five presidential aspirants from the opposition have figured in recent surveys, but more groups are now joining their ranks.

Binay, who is also aspiring to run for president, was candid enough to admit he wasn't one of them.

According to him, the five who figured in the surveys are positioned ex-President Joseph Estrada and Senators Manuel Villar, Manuel Roxas II, Francis Escudero and Loren Legarda.

Estrada was set free by Ms Arroyo through a presidential pardon after he was convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan. Villar has emerged leader of the Nacionalista Party frozen in survey, the Liberal Party name. Escudero and Legarda, meanwhile, are likely to run for the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

According to Binay, friends, who remained popular despite his convictions, could not hold a party conference to accommodate other parties that have been anti-Arroyo. But the deciding factor in choosing Pilipino (FOR Laban) and other groups claiming to be the "true opposition."

"We may have to talk leader to leader," Binay, also PDP-Laban president, said, "to determine who would agree to step aside once the majority elects the standard bearer."

He said he does not consider Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando as a member of the opposition, although Fernando has recently been expressing dismay over the pressures he is receiving from the administration party Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

Fernando has voiced his displeasure at the way the administration party was selecting its standard bearer, claiming he should be the standard-bearer because he was in second honors in the last election.

Binay did not say whether former Speaker Jose de Venecia, one of the founders of Lakas, is now with the opposition but he has been touting the presidency with Dr Vicente's son, rehabilitator and businessman Jose de Venecia III.

The mayor has denied his presidential bid but said he was willing to slide to vice president should the UNO select another standard bearer.

Binay and Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. signed a sisterhood agreement on Friday. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A BANNER announcing the arrival of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and businessman Jose de Venecia III, son of former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., is displayed at the Baguio City Hall.

10,000 people flee floods, heavy rains in Negros towns

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—HEAVY RAINS and swollen creeks in the last two days forced the evacuation of 10,571 people in southern Negros Occidental, Provincial Social Welfare Officer Lizzie Garcia said Saturday.

A two-month old baby died early Saturday after a tree fell on a house in Binalbagan Municipality, Canapian town, while an 8-year-old child was reported missing in Hinigaran Municipality after being carried away by floodwaters in the same town, the Provincial Social Welfare Office also reported.

Their names and gender were not immediately available.

Provincial Board Member Ericpine Miguel Lacson, chairman of the PB's disaster committee, joined the rescue team in Isabela town, one of the hardest hit areas in the province.

Lacson said early on Saturday, officials received calls for rescue from residents of Hacienda Ibarra in Isabela as reported that the area was rising fast in their area. Hacienda Ibarra is owned by the family of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Lacson said officials mobilized the Provincial Disaster Management Team and a tractor boat has already been deployed to the area to get the people out and bring them to evacuation centers.

Garcia, who also serves as Isabela to distribute goods to the displaced residents, said some roads leading to southern Negros were now under water and Isabela have also crushed some villages in the towns of Binalbagan, Moises Padilla, La Castellana, Hinigaran and Ilog.

Reports said Binalbagan has eight barangays with 6,843 people evacuated or needing help; Isabela, 1,461 persons; Moises Padilla, 300 persons and Ilog, 2,000 persons.

A stranded also destroyed two houses and damaged three others in the town of La Castellana.

Silay City reported that floods destroyed a house and damaged four others.

Hinigaran town reported that the town's Acuada and Limar roads were not passable.

Judge tells Baguio, group to settle feud on water control

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY government used a group of residents in Tuba, Benguet, after they diverted the channel of water powering its hydroelectric plant, but the judge hearing the case asked them on Friday to talked with the dispute out of court.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr said the Tadiangan-Ampalime Hydro-powered Landowners Association (TAHALA) in June its gates associate and for diverting the flow of the river that powers three Baguio-owned hydroelectric plants.

Judge Fernando Vil Fernandez of the Baguio regional trial court said he advised the city government and the associations to talk and was concerned that no-meeting took place when he met the parties on Friday in court.

Waiting for pay

Roger Sinot, a TAHALA member, said they drafted a position paper which lists the royalty they expect from the profits of the three power plants.

The group has been asserting provisions of the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, which requires developers to secure their permission and to grant them royalties, Sinot said.

Their offer requires the city government to measure the length of the river that runs to the plant turbines. For every foot of the river's path, residents are asking 1/1000 royalty, Sinot said.

The city government had proposed to include this royalty scheme in the terms of reference should Baguio privatize its power plants, said lawyer Irene Pastra, city administrator.

Fight for control

The city government acquired control over the plants recently from the Baguio Water District (BWD), which operated them under a lease arrangement.

The Hydroelectric Power Development Corp. (Hedcor) operated the plants for BWD since the 1980s.

The plants were built by the city government in the 1920s.

Sinot said their royalty claims would cover only the period when the city government took over the plants and would not seek claims on the period before the 6ye was enacted.

Grenade blast hits house of columnist in Ilocos Norte

LAOAG CITY—A COLUMNIST for a weekly in Ilocos Norte was unhurt on Friday night when a grenade thrown at his garage in Barangay 23 here exploded.

Steve Barreiro, who writes a column for the Ilocos Times, had just parked his Mitsubishi Pajero in his driveway at around 11 p.m. and started climbing the staircase into his house when the grenade exploded, damaging his vehicle and injuring his homeboy, whose eye was hit by a shrapnel.

Barreiro said the grenade probably landed inside an old factory (Ilocanos nowhere yet) filled with weeds, which reduced the blast's impact.

"I got saved by the fat. I was just two meters away from the blast," he said.

Damage

Barreiro said his homeboy, Michael Dita, was closing the gate at the time of the explosion. Dita, he said, was declared out of danger.

Barreiro's Pajero bears a hole on the side close to the blast.

He said he failed to notice whether anyone was trailing his car.

He said the police were interviewing footage of a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera installed near his house.

"The blast was meant for me and this has something to do with my work," he told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

On guard

Barreiro said he hired security men last month after he was told by a local official that he had been targeted for assassination.

"I have an idea of who are behind [the attack] but I am declining. Creative names until further investigation," he said. Cristina Arradaza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

ROLE PLAYER
A child appears to be scratching his head as he carries a cardboard depicting opposition position to convince Congress into a constituent assembly (con-ass) during the Con-ass rally organized by Concerned for Charter in Cagayan de Oro City gather at the Kinder Kagawasan Division for a rally timed with the state of the nation address of President Macapagal-Arroyo last July 27.

Mayor caught by surprise by new tax bill

Measure will allow firms to remit fees to areas of operations

BAGUIO CITY—MAKATI MAYOR Jejomar Binay signed his city's mutual agreement with the summer capital on Friday but found that Baguio had retained a measure that could have an impact on his city's tax collection.

Binay was speechless when asked for a comment on House Bill 5150, which requires drawees, or end establishment companies to remit 40 percent of their accounts to the town or city where they operate their manufacturing or service facilities.

The law allows taxes to be paid only where their home offices operate, which is often in Makati, said Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.

The House of Representatives passed the measure in December 2007 and is awaiting a counterpart bill in the Senate.

The measure's chief proponent is Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines had lobbied in Congress for a three-centimeter law, saying it would help those provinces the government is running from operating in their areas.

Condemned by the measure, however, Binay said he needed to study and explore the bill's impact on Makati.

He said Makati's annual revenues should not be taken to mean it earns from the businesses operating in other parts of the country.

"There is a sharing scheme [that is being applied, where] local governments are granted 40 percent share from all collected taxes in this country," he said.

Bautista asked Binay not to take offense. He said the city government supported the proposed measure because of the slow pace it takes for the national government to remit tax shares to local governments.

Local governments get their share through the annual internal revenue allotments. According to the Bureau of Local Government Finance, about 70 percent—Chief Executive Officer of local governments in the country rely on their IRAs to operate.

Binay's supporters had put up streamers in the city greeting the Makati mayor, who had announced that he would seek the presidency in 2010.

Binay said he went to share with Baguio the formula adopted by Makati in using technology in governance. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NEWS

HIGHEST HONORS Personnel of the 6th Field Artillery Regiment of the Central Command (Centcom) at Camp Lapu-Lapu in Cebu fire a cannon round in a military salute to former President Corazon Aquino who died early yesterday morning after losing her battle with colon cancer. JOAN MENDOZA (CENTCOM)

Cannons boom in all military camps for Cory

By Jocelyn R. Uy

VOLLEYS OF CANNON FIRE thundered from military camps across the country from sunrise to sunset yesterday, the highest military honor and memorial service the Armed Forces of the Philippines could give its former commander in chief, Corazon Aquino, who died early yesterday morning.

Hours after the announcement of the death of the country's first woman president who toppled a dictator with a "people power" revolt in 1986, volleys from a 105-mm howitzer cannons were heard at 30-minute intervals from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Aquino, who had been diagnosed with colon cancer, had been in hospital since June.

Cannon salutes for Aquino reverberated at 18 other major camps across the country, including Fort Bonifacio and Dar Base Nicolas Station in Tuguegarao City, Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, and the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

Full military honors were last accorded former President Diosdado Macapagal when he died on April 21, 1997, according to AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr.

30-minute intervals

According to military customs, the cannon fire salute, marked by a single blast every 30 minutes, begins and ends with eight volleys set by a five-minute lull between each section to mount.

Almost 500 troops also converged on the canopy area at the Aguinaldo gym of headquarters for a show of force, a unit that was formally giving the military organization notice of Aquino's death.

Flags were flown at half-staff starting yesterday at chapels and churches in all major military camps offered Masses for Aquino.

"In this time of national mourning, the AFP gives our steadfast salute to President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, as we pledge our firm and unwavering commitment to zealously continue defending any democratic way of life that she had fiercely fought to regain," said AFP chief of staff Gen. Victor Ibrado in a message at the ceremony.

AFP indebted to Cory

Ibrado described Aquino as a "great leader, and icon of the country's resilient spirit. The AFP is indebted to Her Excellency for it was under her administration that the military institution started a long process of self-review and assessment."

The assessment toward the military organization to initiate a tough process of post-martial law reforms, which in turn brought the AFP to strictly follow the chain of command and "the constitutional precept" of the supremacy of the civilian authority, he said.

Ibrado said that Aquino's presidency was a "defining moment" in the history of the Armed Forces when the military regained its "moral footing." Her legacy will remain etched deeply in the hearts, minds and souls of the soldiers patrolling our land, sailors and mariners sailing our seas, and airmen defending our skies."

Ibrado also ordered arrival and departure honors when Aquino's body was brought to Santiago Memorial Park in Tuguegarao City, and a single cannon to be deployed during the wake, said Brawner.

'Jolina' slows, but signals up

TROPICAL STORM JOLINA SLOWED DOWN yesterday afternoon after it hit land, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

According to the weather bureau, Jolina made landfall at around 4 p.m., packing maximum winds of 75 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 90 kph.

The storm is now moving west at 17 kilometers per hour. Pagasa raised storm signal number 2 over Aurora, Isabela and Cagayan.

Storm signal number 1 was hoisted over northern Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Ifugao, Benguet, Mountain Province, Kalinga, Apayao, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Batanes. Alvin Pepe

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New gov't hospital to rise in Manila

BUSINESS tycoon Lucio Tan, 75 (third from left), chair and president of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim lead the capsule-laying rites for the proposed Ospital ng Sta. Ana to be built along New Panaderos Borees on an 8,000-square-meter land donated by Tan through the foundation. Assisting Tan and Lim are former Manila 6th district Rep. Sandy Ocampo (left) and Tan's wife Carmen, who is trustee of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation.

Lim says hospital to serve mostly residents of Sta. Ana, Pandacan

By Tina G. Santos

THIS IS A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS FOR MANILA residents, particularly those living in the sixth district. A government hospital that will cater mostly to poor residents will soon rise in the area.

Mayor Alfredo Lim announced this on the 8,000 sq m property on New Panaderos Street, Sta. Ana, on which the hospital shall be built, was donated and turned over to him by Lucio Tan, chair and president of Tan Yan Kee Foundation during the ground-breaking ceremonies yesterday.

Lim said the District IV hospital will cater to residents of Sta. Mesa, Sta. Ana and Pandacan.

The project is slated to start within the month and is targeted for completion early next year.

The hospital shall be known as the Sta. Ana Tsinoy Hospital, a 10-story fully airconditioned facility that will contain all the modern medical equipment for a trauma center.

It shall offer 90 percent of its 200-bed capacity for charity for the Manila residents, according to the statement of Tan Yan Kee Foundation.

Apart from Lim and Tan, also present to witness the event were Tan's wife, Carmen, and other city officials.

"I hope other businessmen will follow Don Lucio Tan's good example," Lim said as he thanked Tan for the donation.

Healthcare, being one of Lim's topmost priorities for the city will now be made available to all six districts of Manila with the operations of new city-owned hospitals.

"It is a dream come true for me to provide each district with a hospital," Lim said.

He added the existing city hospitals not only accept patients from Manila but also from nearby cities. They also provide free medicines to indigent patients who can't afford to buy medicines.

Beware of fake dollars, cops warn travellers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICE HAS RENEWED a warning to travelers who intend to buy foreign currency, particularly US dollars, to transact business only in legitimate foreign exchange establishments.

Senior Supt. Gerardo Barcena, Quezon City Police District head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, made the warning following the arrest recently of a member of a fake money syndicate operating in Metro Manila.

"The suspect targets educated tourists, so to be safe, make your transactions at a bank or an authorized foreign exchange dealer," Barcena said.

The police officials identified the suspect as Ernesto Alcomendras, 58, a resident of Quezon City.

He said the suspect was nabbed seen by operatives of the Central Bank Thursday night in the police following an entrapment operation conducted by the bank's operatives.

Investigation showed that Alcomendras was arrested while trying to sell fake $2.50 bills worth $4,100 to agents from Central Bank who posed as buyers.

Police said Alcomendras was selling the fake money at a lower exchange rate than the prevailing rate.

During the operation, agents seized from the suspect 41 pieces of counterfeit $100 bills.

Police said the suspect had been the subject of surveillance after the central bank received information that the suspect had victimized several travelers.

Police file raps vs 14 on model's death

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICE HAVE FILED CRIMINAL charges against 14 persons in connection with the case of a male teenager found who fell to his death from a condominium building in Quezon City last month.

The 14 were allegedly with Benjie Wenida during the tragedy but they failed to report the incident to the police and even left the condominium unit where they learned he had fallen to his death, said Supt. Gerardo Barcena of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit.

Barcena said the involved persons were charged on Thursday with criminal negligence.

Charged were: Manuel Cuino, Ray Vicente Llut, Ryan Lalin, Lucky Mercado, Jason delos Reyes, R.A. Carlos, Jeff Ian Jose, Angeles Lit Nakayama, Ann Santiago, and five others.

"They were with the victim at the time of his death but all of them left the area, didn't report the incident and didn't bring the teenager to the hospital for treatment," Barcena said.

Barcena said police were unable to prove foul play in the incident because of lack of evidence.

Wenida fell from a unit at the Victoria Towers on June 24. Police were later allowed entry into the building and saw no sign of foul play and struggle inside the condominium unit.

Barcena also said the circumstances of the people involved were consistent in saying the model jumped on his own.

The autopsy report earlier found traces of illegal drugs in Wenida's body.

Clean-up drive in Manila Bay held

By Tina G. Santos

MOUNDS OF TRASH WERE collected by Manila government workers and employees of Land Bank of the Philippines who conducted cleanup operations in Manila Bay yesterday.

The clean-up operation was part of the LBP's 40th anniversary celebration.

Armed with rakes, shovels and sacks, the participants filled several trucks with bamboo, wooden planks, food wrappers and pieces of rubber and styrofoam from Manila Bay and the service road along Roxas Boulevard, the city's Department of Public Services said.

Apart from the bank and city hall employees, representatives from nearby establishments like the Manila Ocean Park, Manila Broadcasting Company, Manila Yacht Club, Diamond Hotel, Philippine Coast Guard as well as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also participated in the clean-up that was held from early morning until noon yesterday.

"Land Bank once again extends its intensified its drive for environmental protection, with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with different organizations and establishments along the Bay area that will support the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay," said Glenda Wee, LandBank president and chief executive officer.

"We are grateful for the participation of our partners which share our concern to protect Manila Bay. With this concerted effort, we can do much more to revitalize the bay" she added.

Manila Bay is considered one of the most polluted bodies of water in the country. But city officials were quick to add that the city government regularly holds clean-up operations in the area.

"Unfortunately we are the catch basin for garbage[.] Manila is in low lying, and trash from other cities accumulates here," according to the city's DPS.

Death in a golf course

LAURENCIO TAAS and some friends went to fish inside the golf course in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday.

They went to a lagoon near Hole 16 around 11:20 a.m. and Taas slipped on an electric cable to check the waters.

He didn't know the cable was connected to an active switch and he got electrocuted. He fell into the lagoon due to electric shock.

Taas was taken to a hospital but died while being treated there.

Tina G. Santos

RECOGNIZED AS TOP PERFORMING SCHOOLS: OLFU'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

Our Lady of Fatima University's **College of Pharmacy** is once again recognized as a **Top Performing School** by the Professional Regulation Commission for the **July 2009 Pharmacist Licensure Examination.**

This is the 20th time that the College of Pharmacy (OLFU) will be recognized by the PRC. The College was also recognized as one of the Top Performing Schools during the July 2008, Jan. & Jul. 2008, July 2007 and Jan. 2007. In the same year, the College of Pharmacy welcomes the appointment of one of its students, Ms. Regina Dianne Diaz, as Vice President in the Federation of Junior Chapters of the Philippine Pharmacists Association (FJCPPhA) for SY 2009-2010.

Meanwhile students, OLFU's **College of Dentistry** is once again awarded as a **Top Performing School** by the Professional Regulation Commission and the Board of Dentistry for its performance in the **May-June 2009 Dentist Licensure Examination.** The College of Dentistry has been cited as one of the Top Performing Schools for the past 13 years.

OLFU's College of Dentistry has an ongoing Memorandum of Agreement with the Hong Kong University Faculty of Dentistry, Kapiolani Dental College of Japan, International School of Cambodia and the Midsalay Dreams Foundation. It is an institutional member of South East Asian Association for Dental Education (SEAADE) and is ISO Certified.

Last March 2009, OLFU was awarded **Outstanding Status** by the Commission on Higher Education. Our Lady of Fatima University is 1 among only 82 educational institutions (Ateneo de Manila University, DLS, De La Salle University, UST, Mt. San College, Assumption College, Mapua Institute of Technology, St. Benilde's College and PWU) that was granted Autonomous Status by the CHED.

In gratitude for the recognition and to expand and groom deserving students, OLFU awarded 3,000 Academic Scholarships to high school graduates last March-May. High school students who excelled were automatically awarded scholarships based on their weighted graded average.

Three students now have access to quality education and have the possibility of joining the list of topnotchers of OLFU.

Pangulong Corazon C. Aquino | 1933-2009

Ngayong alas-dose ng tanghali, makiisa sa buong bansa at ipagdasal ang dating Pangulong Cory Aquino. Isang minuto para sa kanya at para sa bayan. Panatilihing buhay ang kanyang alaala. Ituloy natin ang kanyang sinimulan.

Para sa bayan ko

AKO MISMO

Kaisa ang

PLDT SMART

Post a prayer: www.akomismo.org

The Board of Directors, management and staff of PLDT and Smart Communications deeply mourn the death of an exceptional Filipino who left us an exceptional legacy, President Corazon C. Aquino.
Our most fervent prayers go with you, Madame President. Godspeed and God bless.
PLDT
SMART

"OUR OFWs HAVE BONE SO MUCH TO Mail the Philippine economy, especially in the face of the current financial crisis. This is something that I believe our OFWs can claim with pride and distinction."
GLORIA ARROYO, June 2009

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos everywhere toiling as land and air sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Lawyer arms Pinoys for work abroad

Many migrant problems are due to lack of information, says Michael Templo

By Karlo Jose R. Pineda

PRACTICING LAW IN THE United States was a dream-come-true for Michael Templo. He had spent time waiting tables and taking on odd jobs to support his studies at the Touro Law School in New York. It was sweet success when he passed the State's bar.

But after six years working as a litigation lawyer in the Big Apple, he discovered that his calling was back home after all—helping his fellowmen arm themselves with the right information before they leave for work abroad.

Templo noticed that many common migrant concerns—fraud, abuse, money matters and retirement—were due to lack of information.

That realization contributed to his decision in 2006 to set up an immigration consultancy firm with a satellite branch in Manila.

Instead of his ghosted bible to come home in 2007. The 33-year old Templo related that working abroad made him realize that Filipinos are really a wonderful people, and that serving them gave him the most satisfaction.

Helping his own

"When I started practicing in the States, I was already helping a lot of people," said Templo, who finished a degree in Philosophy at the University of the Philippines.

At the law firm where he started, he handled litigations for Caucasians, Hispanics, and African-American clients, and occasionally, Filipinos with immigration problems.

"But what gave me the most satisfaction was when I worked with the Filipino clients," he said. He realized that his real purpose as a lawyer was to help his own people.

"Dealing with immigration cases is very fulfilling because the future of the client and his family are at stake. Filipino clients had always told me the deal was never about them, but rather about their family or those people they left behind."

In 2006, Templo partnered with his Cebuano friend cousin, lawyer Cleng Templo-Capule, to put up Templo and Templo-US Immigration Attorneys. A year later, he flew back to the country to set up the firm's satellite office in Makati.

The office already accommodates roughly a hundred cases a year.

Templo is a member of the New York State Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, New York County Lawyers Association, and the American Bar Association.

A chocolate bar

Of his many cases, Templo said the closest to his heart involved a young Filipino father who was being deported from the US. This anyone his clients would have had to leave his wife, who was a US citizen. Their newborn baby would be fatherless; the family could even become homeless since the husband was working to pay the amortizations on their house.

Aware of the undue hardships the OFW's wife and the child would endure if the family was split, Templo challenged the case—and won it.

"I felt I was able to save the family from falling apart," he said. "It felt good that I was positively affecting people's lives."

Unlike his other clients in the US, Templo noted that Filipinos have an endearing way of showing appreciation.

Once, after assisting an elderly lady get approval for her case of bankruptcy, he found a chocolate bar with a thank-you note from her on his desk gave. It gave him a feeling of sweet relief.

Filipinos, he said, gave meaning and purpose to his practice.

Preventive measures

From mere litigation work, Templo now finds himself more and more involved in information dissemination work.

He now can enter consultations on TV and radio interviews. Templo tells Filipinos aspiring to work abroad the importance of arming themselves with the right information. He is on his way to completing "a reliable source of information" which OFWs can turn to "instead of asking their neighbor or travel agents."

Templo is also now the host of "Crossing Borders," a 30-minute TV program which airs every Thursday night on the ABS-CBN News Channel (SNC). It uses a question-and-answer format, in which Templo and a guest tackle various issues confronting Filipinos migrant workers, such as human trafficking and illegal recruitment.

Templo also holds seminars for students, teachers and professionals, like the nurses, who are common victims of misinformation overseas.

Elsa's plight

Templo also has a website to complement his TV program (www.crossingborders.multiply.com).

At barely a month's time, the site has already 30 registered groups and over a hundred members.

The website recently became the vehicle to help former OFW Elsa Betancur, a mother of two. Elsa's husband had been killed and the former she had employed on hard to pay for busted down. She had a stroke three years ago which immobilized her legs.

A group of Filipino therapists in the US had expressed their sympathy and pledged to donate a sum to Elsa should they pass their perfunctional test. Days enough, the new US therapists took their examinations to Elsa through the "Crossing Borders" website.

The Decision Platform Software Association also gave Elsa a cash donation on Migrants Day on June 7.

Breaking the cynicism

Templo said many OFWs have become cynical and distrustful of government officers, recruitment agencies and even lawyers. Before reaching his office, many OFWs have already been victimized by bogus agents, deal his associates, even if you have no fees, does not always reassure them.

"Some were even skeptical about getting their consultations for free. "They thought it was a scam," he said.

Some cynicism parties, he said, have distanced him as a boss. Templo continued that stubborn him.

His work entails networking with non-government organizations involved in migrant concerns.

Nonetheless, if the OFW's problems go beyond his expertise (American immigration), Templo directs the matter to PESOs that are in a better position to deal with it.

"But I'm actually learning and also getting to know the groups [NGOs]," he said. "It is always best to talk to as many reliable people as you can, those who already have expert views.

"We shouldn't be afraid to reach out," he said.

The joys of reaching out

Templo traces his inclinations for public service to his upbringing. Public service was a byword in his family, he said.

His mother, Milfred Ortega, was an actress in the early '70s who later worked with "Kapatiran Ko, Alabal Ka," a charity program.

The youngest of two children, Templo said his mother always reminded him to "give something back" as a form of thanksgiving for all his blessings. He was blessed for having additional funds his studies in the US, she often reminded him.

His father, retired Gen. Mido Templo, was a civil relations officer in what was then the Philippine Constabulary.

Lawyering, he has learned, is also a powerful means to serve the less fortunate. And like his parents, he has discovered—at his own pace and in his own way—the joys of helping others.

Working with OFWs, he said is something he can envision himself doing for the rest of his life, he added.

"There's no turning back," he said. "This is it for me."

AT 33, lawyer Michael Templo remains idealistic about uplifting the lives of OFWs by giving them legal enlightenment. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

'Dealing with immigration cases is very fulfilling because the future of a family is at stake'

Limits on family immigration for gay couples

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Yancheco

ASHLEY TAN, A DOCTOR of 12-year-old twins, was arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement early this year for being an undocumented immigrant. She has been staying in the US for 23 years but is prevented from getting her green card. Ashley is a lesbian and her partner, Joy Mercado, an American citizen, may not legally petition her.

Ashley, Joy and their twin sons are currently residing in Pavilion, California, as a family unit.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein has taken up Ashley's case and introduced an emergency immigration bill. The private bill is still pending and Ashley cannot be deported until Congress approves the legislation. Ashley's immigration case has caught national media attention and has even motivated some US legislators to introduce bills allowing gays and lesbians to sponsor foreign partners for a green card.

The partner of Ashley even considered having a "virginal sex change" if that would allow her to file a petition for Ashley.

But sex-reassignment surgery is changed to male through surgery, can she petition Ashley as the spouse of a US citizen spouse? What are the immigration options of transgender in US citizens?

Changing identity

Understandably, federal immigration law still does not recognize same-sex marriages—despite the fact that same-sex marriages are already recognized in some States. The US Immigration and Nationality Act still requires that a spouse must be of the opposite sex.

There are many individuals who undergo sex reassignment surgery to change their identities. Do they make to female or vice versa. In some cases, after the surgery, the transgender individual may then petition the court for a change of identity and gender in his or her birth certificate and travel document.

Transgender problems

For the Filipino transgender, however, similar petitions have been denied. A Supreme Court decision stated that there was no law authorizing the change of identity and gender for transgender individuals.

Recently, a Filipina who underwent sex reassignment from male to female visited our office and asked for assistance to change her identity and gender through California courts. She claimed a Philippine court dismissed her petition for change.

She holds a resident's visa and a Filipino passport which still identifies her as "male."

According to her, because of the way she looks, every time she enters the US she is subjected to secondary inspection every time she visits.

State petitions

Like other States, a California court may obtain jurisdiction over the case of a foreign national as long as residence is established. California requires six months of residence in the State and the county where the court is located in order to be able to file a petition.

If the petition is accepted, medical records and other relevant documents will have to be presented to court. If the court is satisfied that the change is made in good faith and meets all legal requirements, an order will be issued for change of identity and gender.

Orders issued by a US State court, however, cannot be used to obtain a change in Philippine identification papers.

And in the US, nonetheless, considering the fact that some transgender individuals are successful in obtaining a court order for change of identity and gender, current US immigration law still does not allow them to be beneficiaries of immigration petitions based on same-sex marriage to US citizens.

Other options

There was one case in 2005 [illegible] of Lovia Lavoie where a transgender individual was allowed to obtain a green card based on same-sex marriage. But this was a "misleading case."

If a marriage petition is not a viable way of getting a green card or working visa, other options should be explored.

The transgender individual may still be a beneficiary of other family-based and employment-based petitions that will allow them to obtain a green card.

Shirley Tan should be commended for her courage and bravery in standing up for her right in a family irrespective of gender.

Positive changes must be effected in Congress regarding immigration rights of lesbian, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals. All families should be treated the same.

Inquirer may be reached at lawyer@inquirer.com.ph or at 897 7177.

The WORLD

Lilia Lorente B. Gonzo

Court: Musharraf emergency rule illegal

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S SUPREME COURT RULED ON Friday that the state of emergency former President Pervez Musharraf imposed in 2007 was unconstitutional and declared invalid the appointments of judges he made during that period.

The decision could lay the groundwork for treason charges against the ex-Army chief, and some fear it could cause political turmoil at a time when Pakistan is battling a Taliban insurgency. But the court said the ruling—the most severe against a former military leader—would strengthen democracy in a country plagued by repeated military dictatorships.

The 14-member bench that delivered the ruling was headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, whom attempted ouster by Musharraf spurred much of the political turmoil that ultimately led to the strongman's downfall.

"The constitution is supreme, and this decision will strengthen democracy and democratic institutions," Chaudhry said.

The court added that rulings made by the judges who were improperly appointed could still stand, and told Parliament to decide which of the laws that Musharraf pushed through during the unconstitutional emergency could remain on the books.

Musharraf declared the emergency when it appeared the Supreme Court might challenge his eligibility for office. The measures—which were accompanied by mass detentions and harsh curbs on media freedom—enraged an already embroiled opposition.

Eventually, under domestic and international pressure, Musharraf allowed elections that brought his foes in power in February 2008. Under threat of impeachment, he stepped down in August 2008.

Ever since, many opponents have demanded that he be held accountable.

Musharraf, who is living in London, ignored a summons to appear before the court or send a lawyer this week to explain his actions.

The court's decision was eagerly awaited by many Pakistanis, especially lawyers who led a movement that helped push Musharraf from office. Many gathered across the country, dancing in the streets and cheering when the verdict was announced.

"Today we have to a great extent achieved our goal, that is independence of judiciary," Hamid Khan, one of the petitioners who brought the case to court, said. "The purpose of this whole exercise is to block military dictators' interventions in future—which we have been seeing again and again in past."

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani welcomed the decision, describing it as a good omen for the future of democracy in Pakistan, which has been run by the Army for almost half of its nearly 62-year existence.

The cabinet Spokesman, a spokesperson for President Asif Ali Zardari, also hailed the decision, describing it as "the last nail in the coffin of dictatorship."

AP

MUSHARRAF addressing Pakistan on Nov. 8, 1999

Iran reformists on trial for rioting after disputed polls

TEHRAN — IRAN ON SATURDAY put on trial accused 100 people, including top reformists and aides of opposition leaders, on charges of rioting after the disputed reelection in June of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president.

The trial in a revolutionary court comes as Ahmadinejad, due to be sworn in on Aug. 5 for a new four-year term, sought to use political tensions by denying a cabinet with all-powerful supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Fars news agency said accused 100 people were on trial in Tehran for their alleged role in anti-Ahmadinejad riots after he was declared winner of the June 12 vote.

Iranian media said the accused are charged with being "participated in riots, acting against national security, disturbing public order, vandalizing public and government property and having ties with counterrevolutionary groups."

Among those in the dock were Mohsen Aminzadeh and Mohsen Safai Farahani, deputy ministers under the government of ex-president Mohammad Khatami, and Mohsen Mirdamadi, current head of the Islamic Iran Participation Front.

Also on trial were prominent columnists Behzad Nabavi of the Islamic Republic Mojahedeen Organization, Mohammad Atrianfar of the Executives of Construction, and Mohammad Ali Abtahi, from the Assembly of Graduates' Circles.

All strongly supported opposition leaders Mir Hussein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, who have refused to acknowledge Ahmadinejad's victory and demanded a rerun of the June poll.

The post-election violence, mainly in Tehran, left around 36 people dead and hundreds wounded, Iranian officials said.

But the official IRNA news agency quoted prosecutors as saying the defendants include people whose photographs were taken while "committing the crimes."

After the election—which opposition leaders say was rigged—up to 2,000 protesters, political activists, reformists and journalists were arrested as hundreds of thousands of people rallied to challenge the results.

Most detainees have been released but around 250 remain behind bars and their continued imprisonment has become a rallying cry for the anti-Ahmadinejad movement.

Iran is mired in the worst political crisis in its 30-year existence as the opposition led by former prime ministers Mousavi refuses to acknowledge Ahmadinejad's victory.

AFP

29 killed in Baghdad bombings

BAGHDAD—BOMBS DETONATED near five Shiite mosques around Baghdad within 45 minutes on Friday as worshippers attended prayer services, killing at least 29 people in what appeared to be a coordinated attack against followers of the anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The attacks, while less deadly than others in recent weeks, placed new scrutiny on the readiness of Iraqi security forces, a month after US troops pulled out of cities here. Some Iraqis in Sadr's stronghold in Sadr City neighborhood asked angrily why they were not protected, while others went so far as to accuse the government of actively making them targets now that US forces are less involved in daily operations. Leaders of a community of Iranian dissidents in Iraq, engaged in a bloody confrontation earlier this week with Iraqi soldiers, are making the same allegations.

"There is an organized campaign to liquidate leaders in which security forces are involved," said Tariq al-Kenani, a Sadrist leader.

The Iraqi government denied any involvement, and the US military here released a statement deploring the "barbaric attacks," suggesting they were carried out by extremist groups.

The bombs, which the police said were hidden just outside the mosques, were brought the Friday calm to five predominantly Shiite working-class neighborhoods, three of them on the east side of the city, one in the south and one in the north.

A total of 126 people were reported wounded in the attacks, all of which took place between 12:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., the Interior Ministry reported.

AFP

2 new Mozart pieces being unveiled

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA—THE huge musical puzzle that is Mozart is about to be expanded by two potentially important pieces.

More than two centuries after his death, two additional works have recently been identified as being composed by the Austrian master. While the pieces might have been played before, Sunday will be the first time they will be performed as compositions of the popular prodigy.

The venue is Salzburg, Amadeus' birthplace and the city that received his early musical career. The International Mozarteum Foundation will officially present the pieces pieces at a lavish musical event that will feature a live performance by Austrian pianistic Florian Birsak.

Officials, protecting the works like state secrets after officially uncovering their authenticity last week, have said only that they were created by a young Mozart and are contained in a manuscript owned by the Mozarteum for more than 100 years.

"These are two substantial pieces of piano music, composed before Mozart's 10th birthday," Ulrich Leisinger, the Mozarteum's head of research, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

They were identified as part of a larger investigation of the foundation's Mozart-related materials that include letters and documents, but also more than a hundred music manuscripts—none in the hand of the composer, others transcribed by contemporaries.

Mozart lived from 1756 to 1791.

He started playing the keyboard at age 3, and by his fifth birthday was already composing minuets. Between then and Dec. 5, 1791, when he died of rheumatic fever, he wrote 626 works.

AP

Italy OKs abortion pill despite Vatican protest

ROME—ITALY'S DRUG REGULATory agency has authorized the use of the abortion pill despite protests from the Roman Catholic Church which threatens to excommunicate doctors who prescribe the drug and patients who use it.

The Italian Pharmaceuticals Agency (AIFA) announced its decision late on Thursday after a long meeting during which it was lobbied intensely by the Church and Catholic politicians, including many from Silvio Berlusconi's center-right government.

More 1978 abortion has been legal in Italy on demand in the first 90 days of pregnancy and until the 24th week if the life of the mother is at risk or the fetus is malformed. By law, all abortions must take place in a hospital.

Developed in the early 1980s in France, mifepristone or RU-486 is approved as a prescription drug in the United States and almost all the European Union except some of the more Catholic countries like Portugal, Ireland and Bulgaria.

Used to terminate pregnancies of up to 49 days, the 200-g is marketed in the United States by Danco Laboratories as Mifeprex and outside the US by French firm Exelgyn as Mifegyne.

Its opponents in Italy say there is no contradiction with current Italian law.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

British super-hacker loses US extradition appeal

LONDON—A British student in the United States for breaking into Nasa and Pentagon computers in "the biggest military hack of all time" lost an appeal against his extradition on Friday, making a US conviction likely. Gary McKinnon, 43, has fought a three-year battle to avoid extradition, including going to the European Court of Human Rights, but he appealed to a panel of judges on Friday as Britain's High Court ruled against his latest appeal. The court acknowledged arguments by defense lawyers that misleading McKinnon, who was recently diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, could have disastrous consequences for his health, but said that while he may suffer by being extradited, the process of the law overwhelmed concerns. If he is convicted by a US court, McKinnon could face up to 70 years in prison. McKinnon, whose lawyers describe him as a "UFO eccentric," who used the Internet to search for alien life, is accused of causing the US Army's entire network of more than 2,000 computers in Washington to be shut down for 24 hours in what US authorities called "the biggest military hack of all time."

Reuters

Kuwait: Iraq avoiding paying reparations

KUWAIT CITY—Iraq's recent efforts to avoid paying Kuwait some $21 billion in UN-mandated reparations for Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion have alarmed Kuwaitis and strained relations that have slowly improved since the fall of the Iraqi dictator. Hilary Rosenthal, Iraq's envoy, will make good on its obligations without outside pressure, and the country has sent envoys to both Washington and the UN in recent months to seek help. "Iraq will not cooperate if things are left to a natural flow," said Gazi al-Gosaibi, a member of a search team tasked with finding hundreds of Kuwaitis who went missing during the Iraqi occupation. But Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has suggested his own offensive, pressing Iraq 000 members during a visit to the US in late July to drop all lending regulations against his country stemming from Saddam's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

AP

Apple warns iPhones vulnerable; fixes bug

LAS VEGAS—Apple, Inc., has released an iPhone software patch to fix a critical software bug uncovered by two independent researchers that make the devices susceptible to secret attacks by hackers. Apple said on Friday that customers need to download the patch using their computer using iTunes, then restart or their iPhone by connecting the device to the computer. While Apple has released the patch, the flaw remains a problem until millions of iPhone users upgrade their software. In the meantime, criminal hackers may try to exploit the flaw to commit cybercrimes.

Reuters

Student banned $675K in music downloading case

BOSTON—A federal jury on Friday ordered a Boston University graduate student to pay $675,000 in damages for sharing music online to pay $675,000 to four record labels. Joel Tenenbaum, of Providence, Rhode Island, admitted in court that he downloaded and distributed 30 songs. The only issue for the jury to decide was how much in damages to award the record labels. Under federal law, the recording companies were entitled to $750 to $30,000 per infringement. But the law allows as much as $150,000 per track if the jury finds the infringements were willful. The maximum punishment could have awarded to Tenenbaum's case was $4.5 million. A jury ordered Tenenbaum to pay $22,500 for each violation of copyright infringement, effectively finding that his actions were willful. The attorney for the 25-year-old student had asked the jury earlier Friday to "send a message" to the music industry by awarding only minimal damages.

AP

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Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Philemotino
Assistant Editor Rhando T.J. Gotoco

Tams thump Maroons; Eagles whip Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

JOSEPH Hernandez of NU is stripped of possession by Ateneo keyinguite Henry Biteko during their game yesterday.

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L.A. CAR ACCESSORIES

NCAA player of the week: Blazers' go-to-guy upholds reputation

By Cedell P. Tayao

Taking Engine Performance to a New Level
Mobil

Lebanon exposes shooting woes of RP; fight mars game

By Mussing R. Castillo

SANTOS

Feel 100% ON Now!
100% TEA. 100% ON.

Bayron knocking on first pro win

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—SOPHOMORE PRO JAY BAYRON wrecked the back nine with a 32 that gave the unheralded Filipino a 6-under-par 67 and solo second place after three rounds of the Brunei Open on Saturday.

The 24-year-old 2006 Philippine amateur champion, who had earlier records of 84-65, trailed veteran Ronnie Bonaflor of Thailand by one stroke with a 12-under 201 total at the Empire Hotel and Country Club course.

Bayron moved into contention for a breakthrough pro win by gunning down an eagle and three birdies against a bogey on his homestand top after an even par 35 on the front nine.

My driving and putting have all been in top form and I'm hoping that this will continue into the final day tomorrow," said Bayron, who tied for 22nd place in his initial Asian Tour appearance this year in the Indonesia Pendeen International last week.

Jovic Pagunsan also remained in title contention, just four strokes off the lead, after firing a third straight 68 (33-35) for a 9-under 204 aggregate.

Mars Pavey was the sum best Filipino at 2006 after a 71 with teammate Mardmond 1000 and Marcio Dennedeo 1000 at 210. Michael Hilton had a 72 for 212 while Jerome Delarisen (76) was among the unbroken at 227.

Bayron birdied his second hole but recovered that shot with a bogey on the par-three seventh. He posted two more birdies on the 10th and 13th only to drop another shot on the 15th.

However, he answered with an eagle and a birdie on the 16th and 18th to complete his surge from fourth place at the start of the day.

The 33-year-old Bonaflor needed a 1st for a three-day total of 13-under 200 with rookie Gagarpot Bhullar taking a share of third place with Australia's Scott Strezi and Korea's Tei Oh on matching 202s.

Bhullar, winner in Indonesia last year, made the biggest move of the day by storming up the leaderboard with a blistering five-under 65 with seven birdies.

Meanwhile, compatriot Chinnaswamy Mariyappa set a new course record after firing a spanking 62.

The 32-year-old Indian from Bangalore notched not only his best score of the week after rounds of 69 and 72, but also put himself in contention for his first win on the Asian Tour.

Mariyappa is tied for sixth at 205.

Asian Tour News

BAYRON. Breaks through in his try within sight

Ikeda keeps share of lead with 72

CHOKCHAI IKEDA HUNG TOUGH with clutch pars in the closing holes to card a second straight 72 but found a new co-leader in Patricia Garcia of Puerto Rico halfway through the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida Friday.

Ikeda rolled in a bending 8-foot birdie putt on No. 15 then parred the last three holes to complete a 36-36 card and remain on top with a 36-hole aggregate of 144.

Garcia matched that output with a solid one-under 71, moving up from joint third to a share of the lead with the top ICTSI-landed lots.

Still, the 17-year-old Ikeda remained on track of his title bid in the premier girls' 16-18 division of the annual championship as the joint leaders posted a two-shot lead over American Brooke Chen and Sudlaan Chalermsri of Thailand.

Hudson was the same official appointed by FIG chief Jacques Rogge to take over the investigations of the horse-doping scandals that involved her husband, Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, and his son, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed al Maktoum.

Cojuangco has yet to set the date of the election to accommodate the FEI representative.

Cuneo-Ilada added that observers from the International Olympic Committee should be invited to the elections with IOC representative to the country Frank Olinde, as the likely choice.

Equestrian dispute takes a backseat

COJUANGCO-ELLA

"THERE IS NO COMPROMISE AGREEMENT" being worked out for the top post of the Equestrian Association of the Philippines.

Party-list Rep. Carlos Cojuangco yesterday said he has not yet discussed the possibility of forging a unity ticket with Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. for the forthcoming PAF elections.

"Nothing has been discussed," said Cojuangco-Ilada in a text message. "I respect that their family is in mourning at the moment and I think this [all] issue can wait in consideration of that."

Cuneo-Ilada also offered her condolences and prayers to Cojuangco whose sister, former Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino passed away Saturday morning.

The POC chief had earlier asked for a representative from the Federation Equestre Internationale to "supervise" the elections for FEI presidency which Cuneo-Ilada and Cojuangco are set to dispute.

Cuneo-Ilada said she welcomed the choice of FEI second vice-president Christopher Hudson from New Zealand as the representative to the FAP polls.

SPORTSWATCH

Country hosts World Pool snew

UNDERSCORING ITS REPUTATION AS THE WORLD'S MECCA OF billiards, the country plays host to the 2009 edition of the Party Central Philippines Open Pool this September.

The event will feature 32 of the best two player teams from 30 countries vying for the $200,000 top prize.

Organized by Manchester Sport, the tournament will be held from Sept. 1 to 6.

Manchester Sport chief Barry Hearn is elated with this country's upcoming hosting of one of billiards' biggest events.

"This is a fantastic event for the world," Hearn said in a statement. "Everyone, staff, players and crew, are delighted to be returning to the freshest of metropolis."

"The level of interest among fans, media and broadcasters in the Philippines has always been off the scale and we are looking forward to a highly successful event," he added.

Solar Sports will air the event live.

"The World Cup of Pool is a great venue for the Filipinos to showcase its game to the world of sports," said Solar Sports chief operating officer Peter Chambong. "We are honored to be hosting this prestigious event in our country and thrilled that Solar Sports will be part of it."

The Brunei-born duo of Rodney Morris and Shane Van Boening will be back to defend their title.

Postmaster's golf tees off Aug. 19

THE FIRST POSTMASTER GENERAL'S CUP A GOLF TOURNAMENT aimed at supporting projects of the Philippine Postal Corporation, runs till Aug. 19 at the Club Filipino. Postmaster Jesus Arranz and Board Chairman announced recently.

The tournament hopes to raise funds for a postal museum at the Manila Central Post Office building in Liwasang Bonifacio. The museum's aim is to preserve valuable artifacts, collectibles and important materials related to the history of one of the oldest postal services in the world.

"The museum will promote greater awareness and appreciation of the Filipino culture and societies, and the Philippines' place in Asian history," Villanueva said.

Interested parties may call 5278501 /5278571/ 5278527 to RSVP or send an e-mail at carlos6888@yahoo.com.

Philta beefs up ladies team

LITO VILLANUEVA, THE PRESIDENT OF the Philippine Lawn Tennis Association (Philta), said yesterday that the group will level up the women's season's tennis squad with three key additions.

Villanueva named Rica Rodriguez, Jessica Lee and Gwenn Fernandez as new members of the squad.

The three will join Christian Parodiangan, daughter of basketball icon Alvin, and Sandy Zobel in the national team. The Philta aims to whip up a competitive squad for the Southeast Asian Games in Laos this September.

Villanueva hopes that the women's team will complement the men's squad, which recently topped Pakistan in their Davis Cup tie.

The men's team is made up of Cecil Mamiit, Treat Huey, Ivi Thelen and Francis Niño Alcantara. Villanueva said the national team, headed by PSC chair Ricky Suggiog, is expected to contribute to the country's gold medal haul in Laos.

LITO Villanueva (right), greets tennis superstar Roger Federer during Wimbledon's Champion's Ball. Federer beat Andy Roddick to win his 15th Grand Slam title.

James still joining RP five in Tianjin

WHEN I SAW THE LIGHTED CANDLES on the ground by the gate of an unpretentious house along Times Street in Barangay West Triangle, I knew that former president Cory Aquino had crossed over.

A man from a television network standing by the gate confirmed my thoughts.

Cory, he said, had died at 3 a.m. that day (Saturday) at the Makati Medical Center where she had been confined for weeks. Her body will lie in state at the La Salle Greenhills chapel until the burial on Wednesday.

I said a silent prayer then, through my mobile phone, combined with Facebook super James Yap and his wife Kris.

I was sure RP coach Yeng Guiao would be missing the services of James in the Fiba-Asia Men's Championship in Tianjin, China, which starts on Thursday, Aug. 6.

* * *

With 7:36 minutes to go in the third quarter, the tune-up game between Lebanon and the RP-Powerade team yesterday at the Moro Lorenzo gym in Dilimanwas stopped because of a slippery floor.

My source, colleague Bonnie Tiongsonkiw, who covered the match, reported that the floor of the gym had become more slippery due to the weather conditions, and had caused some players to slide and fall.

The score was 48-34 in favor of the tall and bulky Lebanese when the game was halted, Bonnie said.

* * *

Maybe it was for the better that the match was discontinued. Otherwise it would have ended up in a violent brawl.

In Bonnie's words, a fight almost erupted between NPC Arwind Santos and a Lebanese national player named Fajadi whom he described as taller, heavier and about 20 pounds heavier.

Bonnie said he witnessed a lot of kicking, on the part of the hot tempered Lebanese, which finally ruined the game.

There will be an rematch between RP and Lebanon, which flies to Tianjin from here.

The Philippine team will leave on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

While Asian Cup missed some of the games in the Asian Cup to be with wife Kris when Cory's condition took a turn for the worse, Yeng and James will be in Tianjin to rate up for flag and country.

James will follow the team after Cory's interment on Wednesday according to Yeng.

* * *

Although Sanger King is first in the dwindling scene, their buddy are specializing that rookie Japeth Aguilar will possibly end up with the Tropang Texters.

A PBA agent said that is not likely to happen, at least in the first conference of the 2009-2010 PBA season.

"Yeng has declared to no uncertain terms that he wants Japeth in his team," the agent said.

"The second conference is another story, though. By this time Yeng is expected to take a temporary leave of absence during the campaign period for next year's elections.

"Teams which are really interested in Japeth can apparently pursue him at this time and anything can happen in the second conference," he said.

* * *

What does it take to be an NBA coach?

This was a question I had wanted to ask Miami Heat's Eric Spoelstra during the luncheon press conference hosted by the PBA at the Sampaguita Suiteki Restaurant last Friday.

But even before I had the opportunity to ask, Eric explained that in his case, luck was a very important factor. All things being equal, of course.

"You have to be at the right place at the right time," he said.

Eric inherited the Miami Heat head coaching job when predecessor Pat Riley, his idol, who holds office only several yards away from his.

"If I need the advice and I often do, he's just a few steps away," said Eric, the first Asian NBA coach.

As Riley's assistant, he said it took him a year to learn Erik's name.

Of the 30 rookies in the PBA's amateur pool, 22 are promised to be at agent Danny Espiritu's stable. So desires it, though.

"I just filed the application for the draft for them on their request. Ambitious lang. I don't pressure it to be their agent," Danny said.

Young karters under Enchanted Kingdom spotlight

THE 2009 ENCHANTED KINGDOM Motorsports Mondo starts today with young karters looking to firmly shore title bids in the fifth leg of the 2009 Magnolia Pure Water Karting Super Series at the Enchanted Kingdom Karting Track in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Cebu's Tonyo Carcel, who emerged the Yamaha Cup Junior champion in the Asian Karting Open Championship, leads the cast of participants in the Formula 16 Novice class of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Carcel, who upstaged more experienced karters in the Asian karting race, has 213 points and is within reach of closest chasers John Calderon (194) and PCR Tough Gear Racing's Emerson Rivera (189).

Also aiming to keep the title lead in their respective divisions are Carl Wellington of PCR Tough Gear Racing, who bumped Marlon Soto and Hong Kong ace Matthew Solomon of NinetyZero.

Wellington is very close to the thirty NCR client with 229 points against teammate Alex Mendoza (204) and NinetyZero's Joseph Tumambing (141).

Soto remains on top of the Mini-ROK Division with 224 points, a slim three-point edge over Cebuano Rob Carcel, who has 221 and Air Racing's Christian Gadil who has tallied 214 points so far.

Solomon enjoys a wide margin in the ROK Novice class with 264 points. Teammate Jennifer Tumambing is second with 158, while PCR Tough Gear's Yves Alfonso has 76 marshers.

The last two legs will be staged at Boondocks and the Clark International Speedway.

Naascu hoops: UM Hawks prevail in two overtimes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROOKIE GUARD JOHN HEFTBRAND extended the game then added three clutch baskets to lead University of Manila to a double overtime 95-87 victory over AMA Computer University yesterday in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the New Era Gym here.

The 6-foot-3 guard sank the first of two free throws off a foul from Jumbo Salvador to the final 2.5 seconds of the fourth quarter to force overtime, 71-all, after an exhausting game-long catch-up job by the Hawks.

There he added six of his game-high 23 points in the next two overtime periods to help the Hawks snatch their fifth victory in six games. The Titans dropped to 3-4.

The victory kept UM in second place behind Informatics, which notched a seventh straight triumph in the expense of Centro Escolar, 69-67.

The Scorpions absorbed their third loss in six games.

Six-foot shooter Mario Gozinda top-scored for the Jones with 15 points, most of them in the fourth quarter where they mounted a huge rally to overcome a 46-57 third-quarter deficit and retrieve the win.

Lyceum of Subic Bay bounced back from 4 shooting guard Jessie James Collado to down ETI, 82-78, while Our Lady of Fatima University (3-1) regained its third win by overcoming winless University of Makati (0-7), 85-53.

Collado fired 23 points for the Sharks, who improved to 3-2.

The scores:

First Game

UM (95) — Heftbrand 23, Arana 12, Lumbi 8, Jones 8, Montano 6, Jose 5, Ilo 5, Rivera 4, Salcedo 4, Lingat 3.

CEU (87) — Garcia 18, Libatan 12, Jalalon 10, Magsa 8, Rosa 6, Jacinto 6, Yambot 5, Aranjuez 5, Barroso 5, Bernal 3, Ilo 2.

Quarters: 17-19, 28-38, 46-57, 71-71

Second Game

LSB (82) — Collado 23, Bayan 13, Ming 11, Lalanlan 10, Pontanar 7, Chavez 5, Valencia 4, Velasco 2, Ignacio 2, Cortez 2, Espinosa 2.

ETI (78) — Santos 19, Abrera 18, Palan 14, Tandoy 8, Cruz 5, Villaluz 4, Bautista 4, Gaitez 2, Dela 2.

Quarters: 15-22, 32-36, 64-62, 82-78

GAMES TODAY
(SMART Gym, 2PM)
Ilocos — UMak
vs. AMACES
(11:00 a.m. — ICT)
vs Informatics
5 p.m. — CEU vs. ETI
(3:00 p.m. — PUP
vs. EAC (9 a.m.
Fri.), — JRU vs. DLS-
CSB (3:00 p.m. — San
Sebastian (1:00)

Third Game

UM (84) — Heftbrand 23, Arana 15, Ilo 11, Salcedo 12, Dumalasang 8, Lingcad, Montano 6, Manuel 2.

AMA (81) — Gallardo 19, Reyes 16, Mendoza 15, Richard 9, Tan 8, Cabos 7, Mangonon 7.

Quarters: 11-12, 23-32, 49-48, 71-71 (2) 10-10 (3) 7-7, 84-81

Fourth Game

JRU (82) — Gonzalez 21, Arbolado 19, Pascual 8, Villanueva 7, Jimenez 6, Mendoza 5, Tan 5, Cabrera 2, Mangonon 2.

San Sebastian (80) — Gonzales 25, Ocampo 15, Ramos 8, Villanueva 7, Jimenez 6, Mendoza 5, Tan 5, Cabrera 2, Mangonon 2.

Quarters: 11-12, 23-32, 49-48, 71-71 (2) 10-10 (3) 7-7, 84-81

ELEVATED King will rebuild around Japeth Aguilar.

Draft highlights on TV

A SPECIAL 30-MINUTE PRE-DRAFT SHOW HOSTED BY ELMAR Valenti, Lowlyn of Gatdula's Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Rookie Draft.

The program will take a sneak peek on the personalities making up the class of 2009 and the prospective top pick Japeth Aguilar. The draft will be aired starting at 5 p.m. over GMA simultaneously on Studio10 and RPN9.

Lebanon exposes shooting woes of RP

From page A20

in Taipei. "Then we'll be lifting weights after another practice on Monday."

"We would've wanted to finish it (practice game) and probably get a better view of the progress of the team. But it happened and it's beyond our control," said Goins, who expressed concern over the Nationals' continued outside-shooting woes.

"We had been shooting well in practice these last few days and I thought we would do better."

The Nationals lost by 12 points to Lebanon in the 20mm Cup, but Lebanon didn't have Mat Freije and Daniel Fatchen. Both are tried to join the team recently after a stint in the US NCAA.

Freijeh, who played under John Thompson at Louisiana State University where he led Tarzanides finish as a teammate, reacted angrily after getting hounged by Santos inside the paint in front of the Lebanon basket.

The Lebanese threw a punch and kicked, missing both times.

"He didn't connect," confirmed Santos in Filipino. Santos, incidentally, appeared to have landed a punch on Freijeh's chest.

"The Philippines remains a dangerous team," said Reis in thickly-accented English. "I think they will play better with every game."

Both teams, though, are not slated to meet until after the preliminaries in Tianjin, during the crossover quarterfinal round.

'Hawaiian punch' returns to Hawaii

BRIAN VILOMIA STARTS HIS RSF LIGHT FLYweight title against Mexican Jesus Iribe on Aug. 30 in a showdown that marks the champion's first fight in Hawaii in six years.

The bout billed as "Island Assault" is set at the Blaisdell Center in Honolulu, where Vilomia dubbed the "Hawaiian Punch," once fought not only in his pro career, but in amateur competition.

Vilomia, born in Honolulu to Filipino parents, last fought in Hawaii in an eight-round technical knockout of Salomon Leon in 2003.

Iribe is the reigning Mexican and Interdistrict of Boxing Commission light flyweight champion and ranked in the top 20 by the IBF.

He owns the latter's record with 19 wins of Ulises Sindona, Mexico, heavyweight of Hiro involving legend Julio Cesar Chavez Sr.

Vilomia is now in the middle of his two-month training for the fight in Oxnard, California. He sports a record of 25-2 with 15 KOs.

Alabang gals resume WGAP championship drive

ALABANG TRIES TO PULL AWAY from the pack as it opens its campaign in the second half of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) circuit when they host action at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Cavinti, Cavite.

While the hosts are expected to flash their familiarity with the broken-lashes layouts layout, the Alabang golfers are tipped to contend for one of the three division titles staked in the two-day event ending Sunday.

The tournament serves as the fifth leg of the eight-stage circuit.

Alabang continues to show the way in the rankings with 28 points, scoring four fours a couple of runners-up finishes in Classes A and C in the fourth leg at Riviera last month.

Cangrill turned up to second with a win in Class C in the event's leg and a second place effort in Class B while erstwhile second-running Tagaytay Highlands slid to third with 18 points after going scoreless the last time out.

Sta. Elena has eight points while Ayalaalos, riding the cusp of its win in Class A, tied Villamor in fifth with six points.

Southwoods, expected to make its charge at home, has four points in a tie with Forest Hills in the 14-team tournament that also includes Valley Orchard, Manila Golf, Phil. Navy, Riviera and Black Mink.

Events on tap are the Classes A, B and C with a maximum of 10 players for each squad to each division with the aggregate best four scores under the Modified Stableford system counting for the team's score.

Meanwhile, the Orchard in Dasmariñas, Cavite will host the sixth leg on Sept. 7 before the circuit moves to Canlubang for the penultimate leg on Sept. 21-22. The year-long circuit winds up at Sta. Elena on Oct. 12.

Tiu seals 6th nat'l drag title

RUNNING TITLIST JONATHAN TIU OF JCT/Blanche Racing put the overall crown in the bag following his big win in the penultimate leg of the 2009 Sun Mig Coffee Sponsored Drag Racing Championship-Sponsored Trophy Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Tiu, who entered himself of an unprecedented sixth straight Drag Racing title, raised his total to 80 points, moving beyond reach of Ed Christian Go of Blanche Racing and Pepi Santos of 113 Motorsports for the Quick 8 plum in the forthcoming championship leg at the Clark International Speedway.

Heading fourth place are David Lim, Ed Christopher Go, John Ryota and Walter Perez, who still hold 10 points.

With the title quest done, Tiu now looks forward on breaking his current all-time fastest quarter-mile record of 9.222 seconds.

Also Tiu, Ed Christian Go and teammate Go also virtually capped the titles in their respective divisions.

Ed Christian sealed the Pro Class crown with 40 points despite his runner-up finish in the last race of the event being sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines. The first left Sto. Mariano Mayor Edgar Cin of Blanche Racing and Wily Wily Inspector of W. Autosport Maestro, battling for season-up honors with 30 points apiece.

Also in contention for overall runner-up are last high winner Anthony Go of Blanche Racing and John Kalaren who tow 15-points each.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, is way ahead in the Hot Street class with 50 points. Chido Imperial and Boy Fernandez, have 25 and 20 points, respectively.

JONAH'S MAN Tiu warms up his car.

After Japeth, Yeng picks 2 more rookies

By Mysang S. Castillo

ROSCOE KING WILL MAKE JAPETH Aguilar the first overall selection in the Annual Draft today in an exercise that marks a new era for the big name in the Philippine Basketball Association and transforms the Whoppers as contenders in the next few seasons to come.

"We've never had doubts that we will select Japeth [as No. 1]," Burger King coach Yeng Guiao said the other day. "He will be the next most important big man in the PBA."

The Draft takes place at the Makati Market in Taguig at at 2 p.m. with 49 other applicants hoping to join the pro league, where 10 teams will pick only a total of 19 next two rounds.

Aguilar was initially rumored to be ready to sign a long term deal with the Smart Gilas program of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, which is calling a training camp aimed at bringing the country back to the Olympics in 2012 in London.

But the son of former professional team manager Peter made up his mind to join the pros instead while in Taipei with the Philippine team in the Jones Cup, saying he believes that the PBA is where his opportunities lie.

"My family believes that this is the best way for me to make a living, playing in the PBA," Aguilar had announced in Taipei last week where he finally gave the go-ahead to have his application forwarded to the PBA.

"But I will be available to play for the National team if needed," added Aguilar, who is being sought by almost every team in the league.

Before he was assured by Guiao, Burger King team manager and board representative Lito Alvarez had admitted having several thoughts on the 6-foot-9 former Ateneo Blue-ranky mainstay in the UE NCAA.

The Whoppers actually have three picks in the first round, as they also own the third and eighth selections overall, giving the franchise a solid shot at rebuilding around Aguilar even after losing former cornerstones Arwind Santos to Creamline and Sol Mercado.

"Picking Japeth alone is like rebuilding the team with just one choice," Quiao said. "Whatever comes after him will be just a bonus for us."

Depending on Pureblock

Guiao said that he will take either 12th-time or Hero Manchester as third, depending on Purebleak, which owns the No. 2 pick.

From there, Bain or Shine, which is coming off a banner season after making the semifinals of the Fiesta Cup, could hand former UAAP MVP Jerry Cruz of Santo Tomas to fourth overall and beef up a frontline that is lacking in a no-nonsense cager in the mould.

Alaska picks fifth and the Aces would still have a lot of talent to look into, with former UE Warrior Manny Arellano, guard Chris Timberlake and a host of young big men will available.

Former NCAA Finals MVP Ogie Menor of Sta. Bella, former Letran, Josh Urbiztondo and Jimmy Mason are the other sophomore talented to land berths with any of the 12 squads.

Rookie draft picks seventh, before Barangay Ginebra, Burger King again, and San Miguel round out the first round of proceedings.

Sta. Lucia, which gave up the sixth overall choice in Rambo Ball in the Gabby Espino trade, clips its hands in the pool for the first pick over by picking first in the second round followed by two Rambo Ball picks, Burger King, Bain or Shine, Alaska, Sta. Lucia again, Ginebra, Talk 'N' Text and Burger King, in that order.

Sunday SPORTS

TWO dots around, Mikeal Cavic hopes to "fly" his way past American sensation and Olympic contender Michael Phelps.

Brash-talking Cavic takes another shot at Phelps

ROME—MILORAD CAVIC CAN TALK A good game. He's not too bad in the pool, either.

Sizing it up, Michael Phelps.

While Aaron Peirsol was welcoming himself for a huge disappointment, Cavic managed to make plenty of headlines Friday as the world swimming championships—in and out of the water.

First, the Serbian and his strut of walking around like the Phelps' camp where competing is celebrity not, even going as far as offering to buy him one of the polyurethane models responsible for most of the world records at the Fina finales.

Then, Cavic went out in the semifinals of the 100-meter butterfly and knocked off Phelps' world record, nearly becoming the first swimmer to break 50 seconds.

Of course, they don't hand out gold after the finals. The race Cavic really wants to win is still to come.

In the meantime, he's doing plenty of talking. Cavic hasn't backed off on his belief that he beats Phelps to the wall at the Beijing Olympics, all photographic and timing evidence to the contrary.

Now, the Serbian has another shot at the man who officially won by a hundredth of a second on the way to capturing eight gold medals in China.

Phelps was the second-fastest qualifier and he'll be side-by-side with Cavic in the middle of the pool Saturday night.

"I didn't want to go out so fast, but I had so much energy in my body that I couldn't help it," said Cavic, who touched in 50.51 seconds to break Phelps' record of 50.22. "I'm capable of swimming under 50, which would be enough to stay [in gold]."

Phelps went 50.40 in his semifinal heat and never back less than an hour later to claim his third gold medal of the championships, swimming the leadoff leg of the 800 freestyle relay won by the US with a world record of 6 minutes, 38.55 seconds—one-hundredth of a second faster than its gold-medal time at the Olympics.

As for Cavic's offer to get him a latex suit, Phelps said he's content to his pool-Speedo LZR Racer.

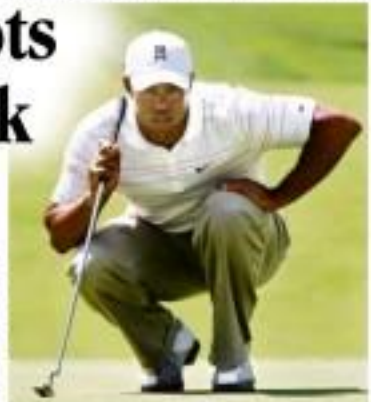
"It's working, this," Phelps said. "If he wants to wear a different suit, he can throw this one on."

Cavic wears the Arena X-Glide, which is made of performance-enhancing polyurethane, while Phelps has stuck with his year-old Speedo LZR Racer.

"There's three options for Michael," Cavic said. "The first option is to use the suit that he's wearing, the second option is to get one of these [polyurethane] suits, which I guarantee Arena will provide him within the hour, no more an 'no' worry. The third option would actually be a dream of mine, to have the whole final everybody swimming in briefs. I swear to God, this is it, this is what I want."

In the relay, Phelps was again on match for Germany's Paul Biedermann, who missed him in the 200 free and put his team ahead more than 1.5 seconds ahead on the first leg of the relay. But Phelps had the better supporting cast, teaming with Ricky Berens, David Walter and Ryan Lochte to set the sixth world record of the night and 35th of the championships. AP

Woods shoots 63, gets back in the hunt



AFTER an awful first round, Tiger Woods is within sight of the lead. AP

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Michigan—Tiger Woods shot a scorching low 63 Friday in the second round of the Buick Open and zoomed up the leaderboard with his best round in relation to par in four years.

Australian John Senden held the lead after two rounds. Senden shot a 6-under 66 on Friday to take the halfway lead at 14-under, two shots ahead of American Michael Letzig (68), with another two Americans—Vaughn Taylor (66) and Bill Lunde (65)—a further stroke back.

Poor putting led to an awful start the previous day to his first tournament victory missing the cut at the Fedex Classic.

"I took advantage of driving on a spring again," he said. "I hit my irons a little bit better and I made some putts."

In relation to par, it was his best round since he had an 11-under 61 at the 2000 Buick Open. Woods began that tournament with a 71 just as he did Thursday. His last 63 helped him repeat at the 2007 PGA Championship.

Woods was 6-under through five holes for the first five-hole start of his career.

Letzig (65) had the clubhouse lead at 12 under.

"That probably won't be the lead at the end of the day," Pinsel predicted.

Woods followed up what he called probably the worst putting day of his career with a good one, helping him go two-for-weekend at 138-under 138.

He teed off early Friday morning, hitting his first drive 342 yards straight into the blinding sun. He saved us to a birdie-birdie-eagle-birdie finish, was to remove the tension thrown his social nine for six in consecutive rounds for the first time as a pro.

Woods had to break 70 on Friday to avoid getting himself in danger of missing the cut.

"I just wanted to get off to a quick start and take advantage of the holes you're supposed to take advantage of," said Woods, who began the second round on the tenth hole, nine at Warwick Hills. "I hit the ball a little more than I thought I would."

When Woods got into trouble, his talent got him out of it.

At the par-5, 544-yard No. 13—his fourth hole of the day—Woods' driver left him behind a huge maple tree.

"I could have just pitched out sideways and left myself probably a 7-iron or 8-iron in there," he said. "I got a little bit aggressive."

It worked out for Woods.

He cut a 5-iron around perhaps the biggest tree in Warwick Hills, chipped onto the green from 50 feet and birdied about a 15-foot putt for birdie.

Woods eagled the par-4, 340-yard No. 12, sandwiching a spectacular shot between his pair of birdies on his front nine. His drive left him about 40 yards to the hole and a chip shot bounced on the green and landed in the cup.

"I was kind of lucky," he said. "I hit it too hard, but somehow it caught the bottom."

John Daly almost hit rock bottom with an 88, one shot off his career-high 89 that he had last year at the British Open, and ended the tournament 20-over 160. AP

'Schu' visits injured F1 teammate

MUSAPOST, HUNGARY—MICHAEL SCHUMACHER visited injured Ferrari star driver Felipe Massa on Saturday at the Hungaroring hospital where the 28-year-old Brazilian is recovering from his high-speed crash.

Schumacher, who is coming out of retirement to stand in for Massa at Ferrari, left the AGE hospital with former Ferrari boss Jean Todt but did not talk to reporters.

Schumacher stated a 2007 version of the Ferrari F1 car to test driver at an Italian track on Friday.

Massa's family doctor Dino Altman said Saturday that the Brazilian was "doing well" and was "anxious to go home."

According to Altman, Massa will fly home to Sao Paulo in a private jet on Wednesday to continue his recovery.

Massa said Thursday that he was thinking about racing again, but Altman said he did not know how soon the runner-up behind Lewis Hamilton in the 2008 Formula One championship would return to the track.

"There's no hurry to bring him back to drive," Altman said. "The most important thing is to have him fully recovered, in a safe situation."

Massa underwent surgery on multiple skull fractures after he was hit in the helmet by a loose part from another car and crushed into a protective tire barrier during qualifying at the Hungarian Grand Prix last Saturday. AP

PAULINA (left) with Schumacher

World bowling: RP women end up empty-handed

LAS VEGAS—THE FILIPINAS CAME up empty-handed again after the nine competitions of the World Women's Team Bowling Championships here Friday (Thursday in Manila).

Already lagging behind after the first three games last Thursday, both RP trios fell by the wayside as the conclusion of the six-game preliminaries of the event that hosted 228 players from a record 45 countries.

The highly-touted trios of Lira del Rosario, Lisa Clemente and Kristah Tabion, the 2008 RP Open ladies' champions, combined for 3,555 pinfalls, and several trips to 2009 Qatar.

The other team composed of Apple Posadas, Kim Lao and Rachelle Lorn landed 31st after finishing with a 3,540 tally.

"The lanes continued to be difficult to read," said national coach Jojo Canare. "But it's over so we're focusing on the team of three, where I hope we can do better."

The team event eliminations and medal round are set for Saturday.

Canare has picked Del Rosario to be the lead-off bowler in today's event, followed by Posadas, Lao, Tabion and Clemente, in that order.

When the trios resumed, a shaky fourth game by Del Rosario, Clemente and Tabion all but dashed the Filipinas' hopes of finishing among the top four teams and advancing to the medal round as they rushed a woeful 1,791, 183 and 1,772, respectively.

A single bronze medalist in last week's World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Del Rosario struggled in the fifth game, leaving her first cross-lane split encountered with four strikes in a row en route to scoring 202.

SURROUNDED by the grass of the game, Sen. Manny Villar performs the commemorative break for the Nido leg of the Villar Cup.

Reyes, Alcano gain round of 16

BACOLOD CITY—FOOL SHOOTERS Efren "Bata" Reyes and two-time world champion Francisco Alcano cruised the upper-bracket round of 32 yesterday, trouncing their respective foes in the Manny Villar Cup Nido leg at the SM City here.

Reyes dismissed fellow Bataan-nanon, 9-3, while Alcano blasted Rambo Petilla, 9-4, as both pool icons remained in the hunt for their first title in the island-hopping series.

Reyes advanced to the round of 16 against Jeep Herbaloc, who stunned Rodolfo Luat, 9-7, while Alcano faces Raniel Rafilgo, who eliminated Jerry Bolayo, 9-7.

Luat-Yao Caroline opened his bid to become the first back-to-back champion of the tournament co-organized by the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines (BMPAP) and sanctioned by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) with a 9-3 demolition of Darwin Bandoja.

Also gaining ground were Edgin Geronimo, who demarred Michael Atienzaa, 9-7, Richard Pamolaran, who eliminated Mike Takayama, 9-7; Cielo Bindo, who edged Eduardo Jr., 9-6; Benjie Guevarra, who whipped Randy Cruzat, 9-1; Jeremar Dc Ocampo, who whipped Brian Silva David, 9-1; and William Millares, who subdued Jose Gonzale enjoy Ronnie Alcano, 9-7.

Winners Romero and Gandy Valle also made the second round, but became world No. 1 is Dingo Bustamante and Bernie Orcollo and Roberto Gomez bound out after surprising losses right in the first round.

Unheralded Steve Villamil upset Bustamante, 9-8, while Elmer Haya ended Dandoy's bid for Bon title in the tournament with a 9-2 victory. Gomez bowed to unheralded Jamil Sultan, 9-9.

Romero, winner of the initial staging of the Villar Cup in 2006, and Valle, also a former champion, beat Mark Moreno, 9-7, and Jady Villanueva, 9-7, respectively.

Sunday BIZ

OLANGO Island will soon host the Cebu Ecological Center

Father's dream fulfilled

Ecotourism site to soon rise on Olango Island

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE PROJECT THAT STARTED as a father's dream will soon be fulfilled as a company incorporated in Canada will put up a multimillion-peso facility on Olango Island, Lapu-Lapu City that would target ecotourists and the academe.

Mike Cantos, president and chief executive officer of the Cebu Eco-Center Inc. (CEEC), recalled how his father Manuntag Cantos Jr. would repeatedly tell the family that they were extremely lucky to own land in and around Cebu, including a property in Olango.

"He (Manuntag Cantos Jr.) always said that others should enjoy the benefits of this beautiful location. What started the project was a confluence of various events," Cantos said in an e-mail on Wednesday.

He cited the recognition given by French publication Voyage to the Philippines on April 2009, when the country was named ecotourism destination of the year.

At the time, the family had been meeting some environmentalists who expressed interest in developing the Olango property. Contracts ensued.

The family decided to go ahead with the project when some investors and, later, Tri-Globe Capital Ltd., a company that has business in the United States and Canada, showed serious interest in the project, he said.

Meeting of like-minded people

"One can say this is a fortunate meeting of like-minded people with the wherewithal to create such a project," he said.

Cantos said the incorporators of CEC included his father, he, his siblings and Tri-Globe Capital.

Tri-Globe Capital has been investing in humanitarian, environmentally focused and governance (ethics/security) projects, especially in developing countries, he explained.

The first phase of the project would cost about 6 million Canadian dollars (about P240 million), while the second phase would require an investment of 11 million Canadian dollars (over P400 million), Cantos said.

Cebu Eco-Center would have a 50-room, 100-bed facility, classrooms, a scuba diving center, an electronic library, an observation tower, mangrove walkways, a spa and swimming pool.

Construction will start on October 2009 and will be completed by June 2010.

Bird enthusiasts

"This goes a long way to achieving the wish of my father that we need to share this beautiful natural environment with others," Cantos said.

He said the facility would target ecotourists, environmentally conscious tourists, students of marine biology and ornithology bird enthusiasts and scuba divers.

Cantos said their facility has good prospects as, according to the Department of Tourism, the number of ecotourists who visited Cebu in 2007 reached 120,000.

"Globally, ecotourists account for 15 percent of all tourists, according to the International Ecotourism Society," he pointed out.

When given a choice, 90 percent of tourists would choose a "green" destination.

MORE B2

MARINE life abound in Olango (file) also.

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Aurora opens up to investments

Province pins development hopes on 5,000-ha ecozone

By Penelope P. Endaya

SHE'LL FIT AND THEY WILL COME.

A new set of business coordinators has been plotted in Casiguran, Aurora province. On that site will rise the Aurora Special Economic Zone (Asez)—the country's investment gateway to the Pacific and the rest of the world.

The 5,000-hectare ecozone, the newest in Central Luzon, will share its business operations in the region with Clark Economic Freeport, Bataan Economic Zone and Subic Bay Freeport. Processing Economic Zone, among others.

Sec. Jose Edgardo "Sonny" Angara

AURORA is home to Asia's oldest Balete tree.

printed out that Asez would be different from its neighboring ecozones.

For one, there is intended to be the country's first "green" economic zone, with plans of harnessing wind power and solar cells for energy use in the future. At present, its main industry is tied by agricultural products and food processing.

And unlike Clark Freeport, where the former US base's infrastructure had been retrofitted to suit an economic, Asez "will start from scratch," says Angara.

Directly facing the Pacific Ocean, Aurora continues to suffer from a geographical identity crisis, according to the congressman of his province's best export.

"Some people think we are still part of Quezon province," says Angara during a recent briefing.

He said that the need to establish Aurora's identity would be necessary in developing the province.

But Asez will change all that, becoming Aurora's richest megaprovince.

It has already drawn prospective investors from Japan, Spain and other European countries, making claims in the new economic Angara said.

According to Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, the local government has taken into consideration how the infrastructure will affect the locals.

"But in case we need to resettle some people whose lands may be affected by the special economic zone, we're not leaving designated spots so we'll (we have already picked designated spots where we can relocate them)," Angara-Castillo said, referring to 22 families that, according to the first survey, would be directly affected by the project.

GOV. BELLAFLOR Angara-Castillo

"We gave moving assistance in that amount long acceptable so family (but we need to find out first if the relocation spot would be acceptable to the settlers)."

Asez was created by law through Republic Act No. 9490 on June 2007.

A 100-meter Bell-On Bell-Off (Bo-Bo) port and a 1.5-kilometer airport runway will be established in the ecozone.

Angara added that an international port would be next in line.

"[The port] would really give us an advantage," Angara said.

The site is perfect for a port, he added.

"If you look at the map, even in ancient times, that's where ships used to dock," he said.

However, it still takes 6 hours to reach the province from Manila, with a hilly terrain left unpaved, according to the governor.

A road that will connect the ecozone to the highway system becomes a special concern, especially since Aurora will expect visitors to flock in the coming days, as the non-blessed province plays host to the Miriya ng Pilipinas pageant on Aug. 9.

Governor Angara-Castillo says that preparations are underway to accommodate the throng of visitors expected to attend the pageant.

She says that the local government has been cooperating with the pageant organizers led by Binibini de Morales.

"I don't mind admitting that Aurora is a poor province. That is why I am inspired to embark on developmental processes and projects that will really help Aurora," says Angara-Castillo.

Co-ops play major role in RP growth

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT cooperatives, through their partnership with the private sector, play an important role in poverty alleviation.

That positive impact is evident through peoples' organizations that were founded since the start of development of Hamilo Coast.

Members of KMK (Kaugnay ng Mamamayan para sa Kalikasan), HCMC (Hamilo Coast Multipurpose Cooperative), and Samapa (Samahan ng Mamamayang Papasok) attest that their lives have changed through perseverance and working together as a group.

Development at Hamilo Coast started in the mid-1990s, when Manila Southeast Development Corp. (MSDC), a subsidiary of DMCI Homecares Corp., acquired 5,000 hectares of land along the coast of Nasugbu, Batangas.

Only 15 natural caves dotting its 23-km. shoreline, Hamilo Coast was envisioned to become a premier sustainable leisure destination.

Part of its long-term masterplan was to engage the surrounding communities, recognizing them as important stakeholders in the area's sustainable development.

"We assisted coast residents," says Hamilo Coast project head Lou Canton. "It has to be in partnership with the local community, building harmony with them."

The developers then got assistance from the CDA (Cooperative Development Authority) to give pre-membership seminars.

Now, each of the four cooperatives, namely at Playa de Luya, the initial development at Hamilo Coast, has a canteen run by the cooperative.

They continue to learn and develop their skills in managing a small business.

The KMK Service Cooperative, which has about 53 active members, most of whom used to work for the development's landscaping contractor, has took over the landscaping and beach maintenance. "They're also helping to restore the damaged mangroves by planting mangrove seedlings, about 20,000 to date," says Maria Clarissa, landed estate's site administrator. "They've started upland tree planting as well."

Samapa is next, was organized on search and protect the vast waters of Hamilo Coast from illegal fishing activities." Together with the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Air Force and the local authorities, we form the Barangay Bantay group of barangka," says Samapa president Marlon Llaban. "Since we started in 2001, illegal fishing here has declined. We have convinced many of the small fishermen who engaged in dynamite fishing to join our group instead. If we still catch illegal fishermen, most likely they are not from this area."

With cooperatives actively involved in livelihood and environmental protection efforts brought about by the development in their respective barangays, this only proves that communities could be rewarded as stewards and partners of the private sector working towards achieving common goals and leading better lives, as envisioned to turn a place as Hamilo Coast.

LOCALS are happy being part of cooperatives.

Aside from providing jobs for up to 80 people, CDC would also boost support services and businesses in the area.

To achieve all of CDC's plans, Canton, who will oversee the company, will be joined by a team of experts, including CDC unit Remedial officer George Kirke; general manager Theresa Lee; integrative architect and renowned planner Ivy Madrilejos-Goonewer; Dr. Swan, who will develop a water catchment and waste management system for CDC; and CDC buildings president Chris Ogden-Hering and Uhrabeg as CDC advisers.

"Our objective in conserving and supporting the environmental and cultural aspects of Ulugan, together with our focus on scientific excellence, education, adventure and community participation, is something new in the field of ecotourism. This project will definitely contribute toward putting Cebu, Philippines on the map," Canton said.

HOLCIM Philippines Inc. recently held its "Big Night" for valued partners, an annual celebration to show the leading cement company's appreciation to customers. Thousands attended this year's place-themed "Big Night."

Father's dream...

From page B1

THE PROPOSED Forest Hotel

Canton added.

The Ulugan site is ideal because of its proximity to a bird sanctuary and two marine reserves.

Underwater expeditions

Guests at the CDC may undertake experiential activities, such as planting coral and mangroves, viewing underwater scenery via underwater cameras linked to the surface and, for the more adventurous, scrolling inside a shark cage while taking snapshots of predators. Informed guides will also assist guests in identifying migratory birds on the island.

Those interested in archaeology may go on underwater expeditions led by Fred Umahong, Cebu's expert scuba diver.

Also, CDC will be designed as a center of excellence for coastal environment ecosystems, marine biology and ornithology.

The company's partnership with the University of San Carlos and the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institute of Oceanography would ensure a steady number of graduate students coming in the CDC, Canton explained.

To support the environmental community, CDC will train available an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) for search and rescuing operations.

A series featuring World War II underwater sites for the National Geographic is being planned in conjunction with Dr. Hal Stayton of Vancouver Canada, developer of the Street Trail for deep-diving.

In keeping with CDC's focus on environmental education, there will be demonstration tours on water conservation as well as waste management systems designed by Dr. Tony Wu, an ace of the world's leading experts in the field. There will also be lectures on the nutritional benefits of indigenous flora in the environment.

Wind energy

In line with its environmentally responsible stance, CDC will use solar and wind energy to supplement the existing electricity grid and innovative freshwater generating systems.

CDC is expected to accommodate site in eight thousand hectares annually when it is fully operational.

The facility is designed to have the usual comfort and safety accommodations of a fourgreat CCfast hotel.

Town program . . .

From page B4

vent aggressive in its networking with the DA to funnel more support for farmers.

Like how it does with other towns, the DA built farm-to-market roads and subsidized half the cost of fertilizers and seeds. The result: Candaba produced a surplus of 500,000 cavans of palay during the three cropping seasons in 2008, Pelayo said.

Candaba, enriched by volcanic soil and its swamps the repository of seeded mountain soil during floods, has 10,000 hectares of farmland and 2,000 hectares of fishpond.

"Hindi pumasok ang isang cavan ng LGU lang (Agricultural production cannot be improved if the DA, farmers and local governments work separately)," he said.

As production is being improved, Pelayo has cooked up another idea.

The town is being prepared to market ready-to-eat "pinaltec," chopsuey and corn buns out of vegetables grown in Candaba.

"Sa 200 grams per pack, we can sell at P15 each. We can market these in schools as snacks or lunches as well as to the government for their relief operations or to the military. We can employ 100 residents to clean, cook and pack," Pelayo said.

VISITORS of Ulugan Island include scientists who study marine life.

Families can live, work together

THERE IS A JOKE THAT GOES, "WEDDINGS are made in heaven and marriages in hell." When you add business in the equation, business can still mirror one's similar that all parties must keep their feet rooted in the real world.

That epiphany is shared by Paul and Maloi Ubales, and Marlonna and Ilocanan Fidelis, who went from regular salaried folks to become entrepreneurial World Ice Cream owners/distributors.

In World's Ice cream supply chain, our resident farmers sit between the distributors and the retailers.

Mikrofinance has never represented a probable case of the fastest-growing genre of the World business—promoting small- and medium-scale businesses.

The partnership benefit and grow as they create shared value together with the community.

Paul Ubales needed for a lending firm before he tried his hand at entrepreneurship. Being one's own boss turned out to mean more work than he bargained for, so Ubales began to help out at their ice cream depot. Soon, she became his full-time partner. Within a few years, the Ubales couple were managing several World Ice Cream depots in Metro Manila.

But there are, Marlonna and Herman Fidelis made their first foray into business by distributing dressed chickens.

Encouraged by their initial success, they accepted an offer to open a microfranchise for World.

Today, their home in Laguna accommodates their small extended family and serves as their—along with their vendors.

These two couples have never met. While their experiences and personalities vary in many ways, they share many things. A head for business, a healthy dose of ambition, a strong sense of home and a willingness to take on all challenges.

Clearly, they saw and guided by the World Support Team, they live and work by the key principles in building a true partnership:

1. Treat all distributors equally.

A small business entrepreneur knows that all distinctions—good or bad—are distinctions from themselves.

Weigh your actions before taking the day off and decide which activities are ways to make money from home.

Ubalesma says, "We take turns with our days off. The World ice cream depot is open seven days a week, so someone always has to be here. Sadly, this means we don't afford to go on long vacations. Not together, anyway."

2. Define each other's role.

Boost your levels of efficiency and productivity by defining your exact roles. Who's the planner and the manager? Who's the front man? Who keeps the books? Who does the filing and so on?

With the Ubales and Ibáñez members, both women opted to handle the finances and other administrative duties.

The men, on the other hand, took on operations, including the training and supervision of the vendors.

That doesn't mean that the women rule the roost. Dual problems to be the bosses under in their partnership, while Ubales-Ibáñez is clearly the CEO of their.

When you take the "you tackle that and I'll tackle this" approach, trust that your partner will do his/her job properly. Don't look over each other's shoulders.

3. Lose your ego.

To get the best outcome, you must be willing to accept advice and suggestions from your partner at home, in the same spirit that you would from a coworker in an office.

In the best of marriages and businesses, there is no room for egos. There is, however, room for disagreement.

Both couples simply choose the right time and place to air their differences.

Accept the fact that your partner is more talented than you in some areas and use it for all it's worth.

While some work, some of those fine qualities may rub off on you. Maloi Ubales says that she learned many things from Paul, including how to manage people.

4. Make time to deal with family work.

Set specific times for discussion or problem-solving in the different areas of your life (e.g., don't talk shop when you're making dinner and the kids are screaming). Make sure that everyone in the home knows and understands when you are working and when you are available to be mom and dad, or husband and wife. But don't hardly as it—use with the Fidels couple.

"The great thing about running the business out of our home is that there is a very regular pattern of activity, which is usually in the early morning and the early evening," says Herman. "In between we have decades of time where I can be a hands-on father to our children."

5. Love things for what they are.

Recognize that you and your spouse have a great chance to spend more time with your family and have a successful home-based business at the same time. Besides, the earning potential when working with your spouse can be phenomenal.

Above all, relax in your biggest fan, supporter and even-works sweetheart! Enjoy the extra time together that you have been given. It's a gift!

"If anything, this has brought us closer, because we were through everything together, for better and especially for worse," says Ubal.

Indeed, the Ubales and Ibáñez husband-and-partners thus shares a homework for long-term success, coupled with the strength of a good product range—is that one is prepared in cream brand—can make the difference.

Paul and Maloi do the inventory of their World products.

GOINGS-ON

SM, Unicef help Masbate

SM SUPERMALLS AND THE United have joined hands to raise awareness on the need for clean water, sanitation and hygiene. The pilot project for this campaign is Masbate where the key program activities are to disinfect domestic water, community and pre-elementary schools with 1,500 schoolchildren.

Major projects in the undertaken in Masbate are the construction of community water supply facilities to provide safe drinking water, construction of school toilets and lavatory for hand-washing and de-worming, and Vitamin A supplementation of schoolchildren.

SM's commitment to the project in its donate 25 centavos to Unicef for every bottle of SM bottled water is contributing to the Unicef Fund for the Masbate project.

Every 25 centavos contributed to Unicef provides access to safe drinking water for two children in Masbate for one day.

Michelis opens new store in Greenbelt 5

MICHELIS GIFTS MAE JEWELry recently opened the latest branch at Greenbelt 5 in Makati. Previously situated at Greenbelt 1, the new store not only offers greater accessibility, but also embraces new Michelis position as the pioneers identifying value jewelry brand in the country.

Located at the second level of Greenbelt 5, the new Michelis boutique is certain to attract those looking for that perfect sterling silver accessory.

Shakey's enters PFA's Hall of Fame

BEING NOMINATED FOR ONE of the Franchise Excellence awards (FEA) in an home is a still but being awarded the Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year in the Restaurant Food Category is the most sought-after recognition by Philippine franchising by franchise restaurants operating the country.

For winning this honor last years in a row, Shakey's was at an entered in PFA's "Hall of Fame."

Shakey's landed 111 seed more to be named the "Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year in the Food Category: Restaurant" in the recently concluded franchise Excellence Awards by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA).

A Shakey's franchisee also brought home the coveted Outstanding Franchisee of the Year for the Visayas-Mindanao area.

The PFA is an annual recognition given by the Philippine Franchise Association, together with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Franchise Association, to franchise companies that have shown excellence in business growth and ethical practice.

Local 7-Eleven posts better Q1 net profit

DESPITE FEARS OF RECESsion and stiff competition in the retail sector, Philippine Seven Corp. (PSC), the local operator of 7-Eleven chain of convenience stores, said its net income rose to P133.37 million for the first three months of the year.

Based on the report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, PSC said its first quarter net income this year was more than the P5.18 million net income that it earned during the same period last year.

The company attributed its better bottom line during the January to March period of the current year to the aggregate growth in revenues complemented by its effective cost management.

Nexure introduces Snap mobile app

NEXARE TECHNOLOGIES, A leading provider of mobility applications in Asia-Pacific, signed an agreement with local shipping management company Maybelyn to provide it company for mobile application Snap, which allow Blackberry users to view, approve and forward Purchase Requisitions and Purchase Orders and send them through mobile.

With Snap, a company's workforce can be more productive and mobile. Also known as mSAN SAP, Snap is known to be a true mobile ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) experience since it goes beyond SMS and web access.

Effort, inspiration give birth to artistic line of wrist candy from Cebu

From page B6

means—the Filipinos' penchant for the "jewelry as part" apparel had created an ugly bead no bangle craftsmanship.

One time, she found out that a bangle she was wearing was a remodeled exporter's reject, which was merely—and carelessly at that—pieced with gold at the edge and then marked up significantly to give it an air of high class.

"I felt really sad. I've always believed that Filipinos deserve nothing less than what the foreigners are getting," she said.

And thus the Joelle bangle line was born.

Shunning her previous business entirely on online trading, Ella's first showroom for her new product was her online store.

"The initial response I got from people who viewed my items online convinced me that I could venture into two distinct business as bangles are usually gaining to be appreciated by many and many women than ever days," she said.

And right at the onset, the number of those swayed from the conventional.

"I tried to be innovative in terms of the materials I use so that I can offer customers something new and original," she said.

From fabric to foil, recycled rubber to make skin—she used anything she could get her hands on to, well, fashion out her wooden and resin bangles. "Some of the coloring fabric needed and hair strands on my bangles, too," she said.

Today, her bangles and raw materials are precisely what set her bangles apart from her competitors.

In two months of production, she has already created more than 150 designs for her Joelle bangles. These designs, mostly hand-painted, are multi-colored, wrapped on wooden and resin molds to produce unique bangles that highlight the Filipino artistry.

"Filipinos are really creative. We can actually make beautiful and quality bangles that can compete with international brands using only our hands," said the fashion accessorizer, whose designs are usually inspired by anything under the sun—from fabrics to paintings and landscapes.

The fact that her artistry got to Boots' counter her concepts—into the bangles and that they get paid well for their efforts is gravy to Ella.

"It's also a good feeling that I was able to provide work to my fellow Cebuanos," she said.

"Each of Joelle bangles is lovingly and painstakingly made," Ella added. "I cannot compromise the artists' talents for, considering the difficulty of executing the intricate details they put on the bangles."

Because of such intricate measures, and the fact that she uses nothing but high-quality materials, Joelle bangles are priced a bit higher than the regular bangle, that isn't to say that the prices haven't out of the market.

For P250, one can buy a set of three fabric-infused resin bangles. The premium tags are pinned to special designs such as her Thongkis, Moroccans and Zeros collections.

Such designs have found their way to the world stage, even. Having largely as a whim, the painstaking hanged down international customers to send her products to. Black to her pleasant surprise, the purchasing officer of Zara responded straight from the world fashion hotspot's head office in Spain.

Since then, the orders and raw materials are precisely what set her bangles apart from her competitors.

In two months of production, she has already created more than 150 designs for her Joelle bangles. These designs, mostly hand-painted, are multi-colored, wrapped on wooden and resin molds to produce unique bangles that highlight the Filipino artistry.

"Filipinos are really creative. We

rooms like Fashion Finds.

Other boutiques currently carrying her Joelle line include Tuesday in Hip Section in Bonifacio High Street in Alabang Town Center, and Penchecha in Cebu.

The bigwigs of Ayala Mall also bought all her bangles when she met with them during their latest visit to Cebu. "I was really happy because it was unexpected to be a product guaranteeing only. They ended up buying all the bangles I brought with me," she said.

Recently, Ella was also notified that Joelle bangles were chosen by www.newyorkbloggers.com to be displayed on their website.

"It's a very good feeling especially because, in every bangle that I make, I share a part of me, of who I am," she said.

Ella's ultimate goal is to have a showroom where she can display her lovely yet classy fashion accessories. She mentioned, "I just dreamed of one-room showroom but neither present. She utilized website—www.joellecreations.multiply.com—and fan page in Facebook—Joelle bangles and accessories.

With all of my collections, namely Beaded Bangles, Tubular Infused Resin Bangles, Resin Prints, Etched Bangles, Tendrera, Moroccan, Lace, Stripes and Marbles, Kerdi Bangles, Zebra, Thong, Stacked, Jelly Bean, Nebula, Animal Prints and Triangles, set posted there," Ella said.

She is expanding Joelle accessories ones to also include neck bangles made from wood, necklaces made from plexiglass, rings and earrings decorated with turquoise, opal, jade and other precious stones.

"I want to be known for the craft. I'm good at, and I want the original-ity of the materials I'm using be the key factor behind my success," Ella said.

Filipino designs can compete with the best in the world

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Sunday BIZ

Effort, inspiration give birth to artistic line of wrist candy from Cebu

JOELLE bangles have made it to the closets of fashion boutiques like Rebu.

Joelle's bangles may soon find their way to Spain

By Jo Anne E. Padiernos

CEBU CITY—SCATTERED ON TOP A chaos-by-flow-from newspapers-topped monobloc table are bottle caps filled with bright paint colors, brushes with delicate bristles and containers full of different chemical solutions.

From that table, Jamie Joelle Lobo, a self-professed bangle lover, seems to charge the mind-set of the fashion accessories industry—one hand-painted, handcrafted bangle at a time.

"It's just like baking," she said, showing the linseed how to mold a resin into a fashionable bangle.

But it is much more complicated. It is a painstaking artisan effort Elle shares with three Cebuano artists and craftsmen.

And the products of those long hours of patient molding, hand-painting, glazing, sanding and laminating have flown from her humble tabletop

ELLE in a self-confessed bangle lover.

POPOCORN. Elena and Thangka collections are among the customers' favorites.

work stories to the tables of a popular fashion boutique's international brand offline in Spain, where they are now being scrutinized for possible inclusion in the store catalogue.

And to think everything started from just a love for bangles.

"I got interested in wearing bangles because of its versatility," said the 27-year-old Cebu-based businesswoman. "Just by wearing it completely any type of outfit, be it casual or formal."

That love made Elle condemn a pair of old rubbles in the local bangle market. First, enamel ornaments were covered with simple designs and traditional materials. Second—and

STORY CONTINUES ON B5

Momentum breakers vs momentum makers

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

A TRAIN TRAVELLING 55 MILES PER hour on a railroad track can crash through a 9-foot thick steel-reinforced concrete wall without stopping. That same train, starting from a standstill, can't, by itself, get through an inch-thick block in front of the driving wheel.

It is never the size of your problem that is the problem. It's a lack of momentum. Without momentum, even a tiny obstacle can prevent you from moving forward. With momentum, you'll navigate through problems and barely even notice them.

As a leader, your responsibility is to understand momentum, to get it moving for your organization, and to sustain it over time. Momentum can be tricky to comprehend, though, often appearing elusive and intangible.

In the article, my goal is to give you handles so that you can better recognize how to generate momentum in your workplace. To help you grasp the concept of momentum, I'll outline 10 momentum breakers alongside 10 momentum makers.

Momentum breaker – Inconsistency

Momentum maker – Focus

By creating and following a clear and focused vision statement, a leader develops momentum. A leader drains away momentum by shooting at nothing or attempting everything.

Momentum can cause friction. When you paint a target for your team, you'll likely encounter resistance. As a leader, you can't restrict yourself by living to side of someone else's comfort zone. Great accomplishments require leaders to fly their gaze beyond what's easily attainable.

Momentum breaker – The past

Momentum maker – The future

An organization picks up steam when its leaders point to a better tomorrow. Momentum breaks down when leaders preoccupy themselves with the past. Or, as I've heard quoted, "Losers yearn for the past and get stuck in it. Winners learn from the past and let go of it."

Many people have powerful dreams. However, most don't realize that the viability of their ideal tomorrow is based on what they do today. The difference between a dream and wishful thinking is what you're doing now. Practice today what you want to be tomorrow. If you do it well enough, someday you may arrive at your dream.

Momentum breaker – Individualism

Momentum maker – Teamwork

If you want to kill momentum, then insist on doing things by yourself. Momentum grows through many victories in which numerous people can claim to have played a role. The level of celebration and enjoyment depends upon the level of participation.

Momentum breaker – Critical attitude

Momentum maker – Constructive attitude

Teresa Amabile and Steven Kramer, researchers at Harvard Business School, studied the inner workings of seven companies. They found that the single most important factor in creating momentum was what they called "progress principle." They discovered that people are more likely to be creative when they're making progress in meaningful work.

Amabile and Kramer also found that the single most important factor in killing momentum was what they called "setback

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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- Why Istanbul is mystical /D2

Why Pitoy Moreno cried when he was proclaimed National Artist

'That's why I've survived it all. I don't let things bother me'

By Marge C. Enriquez
Contributor

EVEN BEFORE PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL Arroyo named him National Artist for Theater, Design, there had been controversy over Jose "Pitoy" Moreno's selection. Was he being honored for his creative work, or for his fashion shows abroad, extensive list of foreign VIP clients, self-published coffee-table books and scholarships?

In his newly minted status as a triumph of quantity over quality?

Moreno dismisses such talk like the proverbial water running off a duck's back. A few days after receiving news of his award, his attitude was business-as-usual, as he sat down with Inquirer.

How old are you now?

I'm not sure if I'm 70.

If your life were a river, how would you describe its course?

In the Ilog Ld life, there are flowers and birds around it. I've been very lucky. I've had 100 shows, 40 of them abroad.

Where was the last time you cried?

Lately, when they gave me the honor it was a beautiful gesture of the government. Not that I don't expect it. At least my work was recognized.

What was your reaction when the news you got the National Artist award finally sank in?

I got scared. Baka mga gaya-gaya. They

WARNER 12

FREE SEMINAR!!!

Vipassana, The Mystic Path Royale

Opening the Eye of the Soul
Awakening the Kundalini the Cosmic Power for higher consciousness, inner tranquility & peace of mind
Abhishekam Technique revealed for removal of negative karmas, self-rejuvenation & clear aura

72 WINNERS LIVE LIFE, A-LIST STYLE

SHOP AND BE PART OF NEXT MONTH'S BATCH OF WINNERS.
AIM FOR A VOLVO S40, VOLVO C30, OR A LONDON TRIP FOR 2 AT THE GRAND DRAW.

THE NEW KING of Malaysia congratulates Moreno after his command performance for the king's coronation in Dec. 1, 1965, in Kuala Lumpur

HOMINO with the queen of Malaysia, Nov. 10, 1991

Why Pitoy Moreno cried when he was proclaimed National Artist

From page C1

night smack me. You know how Filipinos are.

Who in particular would outrage you?

People who don't believe in me. There are some who just contradict people. I keep quiet. I don't bother. Many times they make remarks that are painful for me, I'd rather close my door.

What has been the most painful thing somebody has told you?

I'd rather forget.

How do you handle criticism? In the '70s and '80s, National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag called you copycat.

It didn't bother me at all. In fact, I went to his wake (1992). I don't want to lie. I have had temper. I hate let go of the things that he did to me. I don't know if he felt I was very competitive, but I admired his work. I feel so much when people hit me. There are times I hit back. As much as possible, I try not to get entangled. That's why I've survived it all. I close' let things bother me.

Some tongues say that you don't make good clothes. That your thing is for Imee, Cherrie, or that something-else designer for you.

That's to be expected. But when people see, they say 'Ay how nice!' This is talk started by people who don't like me. All designers have problems with fitting. I'm not the only one—like one woman could be very short. I'm naturally designer for problem-with women who don't have perfect figures. Why make an issue of it? You accept when you have faults. I never through all that. I don't want to deal with pressures from those people. I can't be perfect. Nobody is.

Have you made amends with your enemies like doctor-art connoisseur Teyet Pascual?

Yes, only last week. I tapped him on the shoulder (but I disappeared). It was in the wake of one of our first models.

What caused your rift which lasted for over a decade?

I don't know exactly but he was mean to me. I highly respected him. He was one of my best friends. We were together with Imelda Marcos. Sometimes he would say something, but I hope he didn't mean it. He don't hit back. I'm like that.

You don't have enemies anymore?

I just laugh them off so I don't get involved. We are in a ticklish business. But I have a lot of friends who still defend. They've protected me.

What about your rivalry with Ben Barredo?

I never had problems with designers. I have many groups of friends. I can't join them all the time.

In all the social events, weddings, glossy magazines, people are gravitating younger designers. How do you feel about that?

It's okay. I can't tackle those things. Fashion has to be in the hands of other designers. I can't afford to make so many clothes (in one time).

You don't feel bad that once upon a time, you were in the limelight? Now it's the younger?

No problem. So far. Thank God. Instead of making 100, I will make only 14 gowns. Every weekend I'd suffer. If they my clothes are not yet finished or there are problems here and there. I'm not a selfish man. I never complain about value other designers do. I never criticize. That's their own idea. I'm not an angel, though.

PRESIDENT Ong Teng Cheong and the First Lady of Singapore congratulate Pitoy Moreno after the show.

Who are your clients today?

My loyal clients—usually the old families and friends. I still get a lot of [orders for] weddings and important occasions. That's why I can afford to put up fashion shows if people tap me. Gloria (Arroyo) calls for shows in Malacañang. It's not only Gloria, but also Mr. Marcos.

You've dressed up First Couples since the Carlos Garcia administration. Do you dress up the First Gentleman in your (having Cher's partial to Emmanuelle Zapata suits though)?

Do. Not all the time... Even the former first ladies call (to ask me).

Did your award have something to do with your longtime relationship with the Marcoses? You dressed up Doña Fax Bisaya-gal when she was first lady and you made the wowings of President Diosdado Macapagal.

No. Once the (1998) Senate president, mayroon ay hanang (does not a comfort assistant). Although in very important occasions she has to ask me—because my shows are beautiful.

Who's the only designer who has the distinction of having a gala (Golden Years of the Art and Life of Moreno, 2004) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater

All my fashion shows are fund-raisers.

Have you made amends with your enemies like doctor-art connoisseur Teyet Pascual? 'Yes, only last week'

Will you produce a fashion show this year?

A foreign couple came over. The husband is disabled. They want a fund drive to raise awareness. I said yes. I told them don't pay me a single centavo. But then some things came up. It's supposed to be on Dec. 1, Cheesecake, (Magnolia) but also (it will be over-whelming). Besides, the proposed venue is too small. I said they should relocate to another venue. We have to protect yourself.

In all my shows abroad, I go to the venue first and check everything... You must prepare for everything—time (corrections, final runs of the models). I don't want anybody else (to handle it). Follow it or nothing. You don't pay me, but do what I want. I see to it everything is planned. Did you know I had a fashion show on an airplane?

Yes, 'Fashion on Wings' onboard Philippine Airlines in the '90s. Nobody else had done it. Your bride wore a long train along the aisle.

The models dressed in the exhibits I also had another show on Korean Airlines from Seoul to Paris. I even had a show in Russia once in their theaters. Some were published, others forgotten.

What your was that?

For ask such questions that I have to think again and again.

Describe your typical day.

I wake up at 7 a.m. I attend to my designing and my little sidelines like houses have or three. These are my source of livelihood. When you invest in something, you see to it that it's well-protected. I don't know how to manage money. There I have four houses and I go to a lot of parties. Today I have five invitations.

You've never had a love life?

I have a lot of my friends.

How about sex life?

No, I'd rather not get involved. It's something I don't understand.

Who have been the biggest influences on your life?

I don't want to brag.

How do you see yourself in the next five years?

Helping more people.

You already have your J. Moreno Foundation that provides scholarships for deserving students from the UP School of Fine Arts and the College of Medicine.

They've been going on for 20 years. I support 10 scholars from each college. I get annoyed with them. I ask them to write a thank-you letter to Imelda Cojuangco. She has nothing to do with UP. She's just my friend. I ask her if she'd like to make a donation. She's busy, giving out shoes etc. I don't want people to be ungrateful. One of my scholars who has been in the States visited me. She said her mother was just a labandera (laundry woman) from the province. She could not afford to send her children to school. UP exempted her. But one was enough.

How do you stay young?

Do I look young? I'm just short. I don't bother about problems. But when I feel hurt, I cry when somebody does or is unreasonable.

But when people criticize you, you don't cure. Right?

I can criticize if I want to. But I don't. Panitin.

Despite crisis (or because of it?), bars and resorts pack them in

HERE ARE SOME FASHION news, compiled from fashion sources and magazines:

Phoebe Philo will be the new creative director for the house of Céline. Miki Yamamoto is doing a collection for Swarovski. Beyonce, known for his ballet flats, is collaborating with Karl Lagerfeld and the Kardashians of Germany on footwear, and Christian Louboutin is launching his men's shoes in September.

And for those women in need of fashion trends/advice, here are some: harem or gaucho pants; gladiator sandals for summer; oversized bags and bag envelope clutch; chunky jewelry pieces and bright colors.

For men: double-breasted suits, Camel colognes; designer trainers, lace-up shoes, loafers with no socks, and if you want to wear sandals, please get a pedicure.

Whitney comeback

Whitney Houston back on track, not so much?

Everyone knows her life, which reads like a Judy Garland bio, and thank God she came to her senses. In life, everyone deserves a second chance.

One of the greatest voices of all time, Whitney Houston is set to launch her comeback album, "I Look to You," on Aug. 21. This is definitely one of the most awaited albums this year, with Houston life off of crack? Fans are hoping that her career gets back on track.

And speaking of music, here are some delectable tracks that you should quickly plug into your iPods, prelisten for the gym or anytime you need to just dance: "Where Love Takes Over" by David Guetta and Kelly Rowland; "Sweat Dreams" by Beyonce, and "Obsessed" by Mariah Carey.

No-man hunt

I bumped into Ambassador Joey Antonio and his lovely wife Hilda at a party last week and he told me about his collaboration with the legendary architect, I.M. Pei, for a building he put up in New York City.

The Carnegie is Manhattan, located at 33 West 56th St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues, was developed by Hillman Development International and Atlantic Development.

Joey has known I.M. Pei since their first collaboration with Fuentes at the Fort.

On the scene

Ghost the economic crisis and the recession rules. Manila's party scene never takes a break.

Let's start with the last night's scene. Hero and Marites's Bar are packing it in, while a new bar/lounge, Asia bar, just opened at the Fort.

We hinted that the Palace at Anjar will be undergoing major renovation with new partners, name and concept.

T'NT Trends & Trendings

Anton San Diego

Local firm collaborates with I.M. Pei in Manhattan development

And if you're looking for a staple, classic and refreshing cocktail to jump-start your evening, try vodka (Belvedere or Grey Goose), with apple juice garnished with a slice of apple, and you'll get hooked.

On the restaurant scene, Margarita Fores' Loam, Aquarium, Malcolm's deli (at the Fort) and (shameless plug) Crystal Room at the Established are prime contenders for everyone's palate.

For resorts/travel: Relief seems to be on everyone's agenda at the moment, but not for Bridal School. Wacky Hay Banaver (managed by Discovery Suites) is pitching itself up as the foremost resort to that region.

In Boracay, everyone can't wait to check in at Ariya (owned by Chay Gonzaga). It's one of the few resorts you'll see while coming from Caticlan, and it looks formidable.

Another resort set to open this year is Bersin Hotel, designed by Anton E. Medina.

In local fashion and design, Raven Dumapit's Summer Bar for Colombia is simply worldclass. He is set to showcase his wares first at the New York Fair (August) and Maison Objet in Paris (September).

I was able to take a sneak peek into fashion designer Bepi Ty Allison's line of jewelry and accessories, and they are mindblowing. They will be sold in new, modernity-inspiring inner space.

Congratulations are in order to Pitoy Moreno winning the National Artist award, but I can't say the same for a certain comedian. Isn't Dolphy far more deserving?

And I got a funny text about another comedian who was herself a judge. Did she vote for herself? Have the features of Artist Awards lost their credibility? You decide.

And lastly, for those junk food aficionados like me, try the chicken-and-rice dish at Manty's crackling vegetarian charbroiler, simply addicting.

AMBASSADOR Joey S.B. Antonio, Hilda Antonio and I.M. Pei

Prayers for Cory

The whole country is praying for former President Corazon Aquino. We have not seen the city deserted in this manner or showing some solidarity for quite a while. (Think Edsa revolution).

But it's a good reminder that when times are rough, we can come together as a nation no one.

Farewell, Tara

HER HEART FINALLY GAVE UP AT 4 a.m. on July 27.

It was almost a year-long struggle for Tara and her family—parents Larry and Anna, her sisters Ige and Gina—and all her friends who loved her dearly. She had been shot last year, Aug. 9, on the eve of her 22nd birthday, by an unknown assailant, while in a passenger jeepney somewhere in Cainta.

Through this tragedy she has inspired many people—young and old—in some supreme third dimension her life may have been, it touched many lives, mine included, rendering us once more the possibilities of love and hope.

I went to visit her two weeks ago before something inside of me was drawn to revisiting her story, to see how life had changed for her—and her family in the year since the accident. Expecting to be dispersed, I prepared myself mentally and emotionally. In-

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gobaleza

After a year, a young shooting victim dies, but not after imparting great lessons

stead, I found a miracle of sorts. Hope and love were very palpable the moment I entered her bright, green bedroom that rainy Saturday afternoon.

"Hope," her father Larry told me when I visited, "is the one thing we cannot let go of." Hope and unconditional love were what seemed to be sustaining Tara who had lived on for 11 months after the shooting, with the bullet wherever lodged in her head.

I read somewhere that, "We are conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one."

I was gifted with a final chance to visit with Tara up close. She looked like she was just sleeping, that until beautiful, her hair tied in a ponytail, I held her hand, and she gripped it firmly back, her remaining good eye seemed to look at me. Doctors will say it was probably reflex, it really doesn't matter, but it was one moment I shall treasure all my life.

The year before, Tara had just graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Political Science and was very active in the band circuit while working for Upland Marketing, an NGO.

"She had many dreams. She wanted to go to law school someday...," her dad told me.

Both parents bear no bitterness. "We choose to be thankful for the 23 years, when she was healthy and so full of life," her mother said.

For the last five months, the family had been shuttling between their home in Cainta and the small townhouse in Quezon City owned by Anna's brother who works overseas. After her eight-month confinement at Medical City, they decided to keep her in a semi-

FAREWELL, TARA CD

Making your job work for you

By Carmie Dalguiza

IN THESE CRITICAL TIMES, it is not enough to have a job. What is more important is to make your job work for you – whether as a freelancer or a regular employee – to help you meet your needs. It is all a matter of knowing how to make the most out of what you have as a source of income.

During the launch of Talk 'N Text's *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* advocacy, the idea of choosing tipid-sulit inherent among Filipinos ignited sparks of hope especially among those who have limited resources to overcome life's challenges. The campaign aims to motivate people to recognize opportunities that, through ingenuity, hard work, and perseverance, can provide much needed additional sources of income. To date, *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* has partnered with a number of organizations including social development foundation Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the Pajutao women's initiative BagoRiches, nationwide sari-sari store chain Hapinoy, the talented group of sculptors BanglisMan, and recruitment network JobsDB.

These partner organizations have successfully adopted the same tipid-sulit strategy in helping communities get back on their feet and become an inspiration for others.

Taking the cue from this advocacy, you, too, can make use of this obstacle and at the same time, make your present job work according to your needs despite the odds through hard work, perseverance, and skills.

Consider Louie – a 29-year old husband and father of two who has been working in the same company for almost nine years. Louie only finished high school, but this does not stop him from perfecting every chance a opened of him. Starting out as a messenger, he is now entrusted with work that is beyond his responsibilities due largely to his admirable work ethic and acquired skills through the years.

He spends long hours at work and never complains, always cheerful even under stressful situations. He is best to have around when obstacles is needed – from assembling props to delivering documents to hand-to-find locations. He does not speak English well, but his gift of gab enables him to engage with clients and people from the media. Today, he helps implement company programs and projects for clients, which include coordinating with print and broadcast journalists.

People like Louie do not limit themselves to job descriptions. Instead, they see the opportunity as a stepping stone to improve themselves. In Louie's case, he makes a career investment out of learning new skills, enhancing knowledge, and building contacts. His hard work is certainly starting to pay off – he has already managed to buy basic household appliances from his second bonuses. This, at the rate he's going, a promotion should not be far behind.

But amidst the hard work, Louie also knows how to celebrate the fruits of his labor. While he lives within his means, he always makes it a point to reward himself and his loved ones. "Minsan, kailangan din na makibisita nang may pinupuntahan ang kwidlao na, e. Kaha'r papano masasabi mo na sarili mong may nanonood ka (Sometimes, it is necessary for you to see where your hard-earned money is going. It gives you reassurance that you're getting there)," Louie reveals.

Tipid-Sulit Pinas! salutes people like Louie who recognize and make the best out of every opportunity present in what they have. The campaign further hopes to create more inspiring stories like Louie's—of individuals and communities alike. Stories that, like the campaign's present partners, demonstrate ingenuity and hard work as they went from being small community-based projects that were merely created to make an extra buck, to highly successful organizations that now positively affect the lives of many Filipinos across the country.

Who knows? The next story may be yours. Indeed, through talent, commitment and dedication, you can make your job work for you and your loved ones.

Those who want to be part of the *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* cause may do so in three ways. First is to register to Gauntlet 18 by texting GT 10 to 8855. Every registration will allow Talk 'N Text to automatically make a donation to the Tipid-Sulit Fund. Other ways to help is to make a direct donation via 8855, or download the *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* logo or a *Tipid-Sulit* tip also via 8855. Proceeds from these SMS donations will go to the advocacy's partners which include PBSP, Banglos, Hapinoy, and BagoRiches. For more details about the advocacy and how you can participate, visit www.tipidsulitpinas.com.

A hardworking employee, Louie exemplifies the virtues of having *diskarteng Tipid-Sulit!*

Louie's resourcefulness enables him to provide for his family out of his present job.

Robin Padilla believes in the principles of *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!*

Once classmates, now husband and wife

NEW LYWEDS Gino and Kaye Abanzado

IT WAS A RED-LETTER DAY for both Gino Abanzado and Kaye Cruz last May 17 as they exchanged vows in a blissful wedding ceremony held at Cedar the King.

Gino is the son of Mitchil Tomaquin-Abanzado and the late Roy Villa Abanzado, while Kaye is the daughter of Ricardo R. Cruz Jr. and Vilma M. Cruz. The two were classmates seven years ago at the Ateneo Law School in Rockwell.

Unlike other love stories, it was not love at first sight for them. In fact, their relationship did not go beyond the four walls of the classroom. It was only when they were in second year and no longer in the same section that they became close.

Gino and Kaye both studied at the nonresidential section of the Ateneo and because they had the same set of professors, they would often exchange notes and tips. Soon, they began looking for each other's company every day.

Although Gino decided to leave law school to pursue marketing, it did not stop him and Kaye from remaining close. Gino finally realized Kaye was everything he wanted in a girl: beautiful, intelligent, career-and family-oriented.

After four and a half years, Gino and Kaye finally exchanged I do's. It was a wedding section (mostly planned) not just by the couple but their families and friends as well, most especially the bride and the groom's moms, the bride's sisters Mary and Pia, and their friends Jackie and Irene.

The beautiful and solemn ceremony occurred like it was scheduled in heaven, with chocolate-

WITH THE BRIDE'S family, sister Pia Cruz, mother Nimmi Cruz, grand aunt Porfira Nuñez, father Joe Cruz and sister Mary Cruz

WITH THE GROOM'S family, sister Vianca, mother Melvin, baby with mom in law Rose, Higgy with brother Vhay

WITH THE ENTOURAGE: Pat Cruz, Gido Abanzado, Vianca Abanzado, Merlin Lizardo, Bea Catubuk, Lee Esteban, Mary Cruz, Jun Lim, Jenell Bringas, Vilma Abanzado, JR Vicente, Carla Vicente, Brian Lim, TJ Bernardino (front row) Cristel Franco, Bea Contreras, Higgy Abanzado, Martin Ching, Rose Abanzado, Gio Alcid.

Should be tell his wife about his affair—with a man?

DEAR EMILY:

I am 43, happily married for 20 years now, with two daughters of grade school age. My life has been perfect: a successful career, a wonderful relationship with my loving wife, until I was sent by my company on special training for a possible promotion.

I met Jay, three years my junior, single, kind-hearted, generous. In the end, he was promoted, I wasn't. Out of the blue, he told me he loves me even though I'm married. He said he was willing to wait. I felt violated so I rejected him. Still, he communicated with me.

During a company reunion, our paths crossed and something unusual happened between us. I found myself falling in love as well.

That was also my first experience with a man. It was weird because while I've had overnight stands with women, I never developed emotional attachment with them.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mercado

I knew this kind of relationship was doomed from the start, so I decided to sever ties with him even if I longed for his company, and all the other women I had affairs with. I stopped my liaisons, dreamed up my act and resolved what a jerk I had been for cheating on my unsuspecting wife.

My conscience is bothering me and it has taken a toll on my health, work and relationship with my wife, children and friends. I want to tell my wife but I know that not only will she get mad, she will also definitely leave me, and I don't want my home to break up. Should I just take this secret to my grave?

NAMELESS

If you keep on looking back to your failures, you'll never move on and let's move page.

Instead of moping and getting depressed, think the heavens—for not having been caught and making your life a real nightmare—and being given another chance in life. If you want a wedding to christen your soul, unburden your misery to a priest.

Telling your wife about your past, after the fact, will only cause unnecessary stress in your marriage. Why not make up for your indiscretions by becoming the most loving, kind husband and fa-

ther you can ever be?

Recapture the essence of value you ever like—a fun and exciting character—before you got sidetracked. You're definitely not going to be the exact same person, after with the years you'd inflicted upon yourself. This, like it or not, has made you wiser, with a whole new perspective in life. Let those highs and lows be your guide to new beginnings.

E-mail: amanda@inquirer.com.ph, SUBJECT: LIFESTYLE

GOLDEN GIRL

ALEE L. YOONG OF the Brillo Cove School of Ballet in Ormoc City reaped six gold medals at the 13th Asia Pacific Dance Competition held in Bangkok, Thailand, from July 16 to 21. Also, a Grade 5 student of Ormoc Colleges, has been a consistent medalist since she won her first gold in the 4th Asia Pacific Dance Contest held in Singapore in 2006.

Farewell, Tara

From page A1

home, closer to the hospital. Tara lived there with her grandmother and two midwives who rotated on 12-hour shifts. The hospitalization and medication cost P4 million. The family still needs to pay P1.6 million.

Tara's mother, Anne, said: "Nothing in this life is really under our control. But once did see question God. There must be a reason for all of this. Maybe, there is a reason for the pain."

A week after our visit and the week-end this story was submitted, Tara was rushed to Medical City suffering from fever caused by infection somewhere in her body.

Early Monday morning, I got a text message from her mother that Tara was gone. He had passed away a day after her youngest sister Gloria 14th birthday. "It's like she just waited for the day to pass, maybe she did not want her sister to forever associate her passing with her birthday, just as we do, when we remember that tragic night a year ago," Larry said.

Now that she is gone, "Tara's Theme," the concert organized for her benefit, will push through Oct. 4 at Meralco Theater, to raise funds to help pay off the large debts incurred by her hospitalization. Her parents had hoped it will be able to find sponsors for the show where artists like Jose Mari Chan, Kamille, the Hiyamkhids, plus other bands and artists had agreed to perform for free. Upon her passing, many local media have offered to help host the endeavor. Help continues to pour in.

The wheels of justice turned even so slowly, and a murderer continues to roam free. Larry told me when I went to Tara's wake that the National Bureau of Investigation had reopened her case. The NBI chief himself has promised to set up a task force. "It was a promise I made to her, even if I have to spend the rest of my life looking for the man who killed my daughter, I will do it," Larry said, his voice shaking.

There is nothing like loss to remind you to embrace life even as tightly. "Grief breaks down the barriers of ego, to open up the spirit." He thank God for Tara's brief but full life. May her bearing remind us all of how we must cut into things for granted, of how important it is to never let a moment pass us by without showing love, kindness and affection wherever we can, and to say what needs to be said, because tomorrow is never guaranteed to us.

Farewell, for now, Tara. You are ill really home.

E-mail the author at nelyhalasan@gmail.com

JOY NOW IN MISSOURI

"They were right when they said 'If you don't like Kansas weather, wait for an hour.' In our 3 weeks here, we experienced intense heat, humidity and rain, the last of which gave me blisters on my toes. Ouch! Thank God, Mat and I reached the Missouri stateline in one piece!"

– Joy

Joy Peaty is the first Filipino to have run across the Philippines and the first Southeast Asian woman to attempt a historic 5,000 km run from California to New York in a project called Takbong Pinoyano. Joy and a support crew are making their way through the USA to raise funds for a worthy cause and share an important message. Visit their trail in real-time on the Pilipino and Learn more about Joy and Takbong Pinoyano on www.thejoy.net, www.phoy/Takbong Pinoyano and follow her journey on Twitter and Facebook.

SMART is the official wireless services provider of Takbong Pinoyano.

SMART

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Farewell, Tara /C3

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Artists rue 'massacre' of National Artist Awards

It's a controversy that will not die any time soon

WHILE CONTROVERSY RAGES over the proclamation of National Artists, last Wednesday's announcement that President Macapagal Arroyo has included "massacre" movie director and komik fictionist Carlo Caparas and five more adviser for culture and the arts, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, to the Order of the National Artists has to silence the farmer's area that many artists are proclaiming the death of the awards institution itself.

"Saddened to inform you of the death of the National Artist Awards," texts an SMS message that circulated among artists, writers and culture lovers last Friday.

Some artists and writers, were on the lookout for irony and pastiche, said the awards were "massacred"—in sly allusion to Caparas, who achieved notoriety in the late '80s and early '90s for his "massacre" movies, cinematic portrayals of true stories of heinous crimes that featured gratuitous violence.

Others made cheering faces out of bloody, whose one claim to fame is having founded the Philippine Educational Theater Association, or Peta: "Founder ng Peta hindi nararapat mag-daeme, labo shaem's lesen how to duet," jeshaje rehoring to Alvarez's alleged lobby to be proclaimed National Artist at the risk of conflict of interest. "She should have removed herself from the race and not taken advantage of her Cabinet position," one writer said.

Artists and culture workers said they feel a sense of betrayal by Alvarez for not advising the President against dropping composer Ramon Santos from the list in favor of Caparas and Alvarez. Santos had been endorsed for the award by the joint board of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, subdivision the National Artists after a rigorous screening by the arts and culture sectors. Alvarez herself is executive director of NCCA.

Except for Santos, those elected by the NCCA-CCP were proclaimed by the President: Federico Aguilar Alcuaz for the visual arts, the late Lazaro Francisco for literature and the late Manuel Conde for film.

But artists said that Conde may now be moving in his grave because of Caparas. Conde's classic, "Genghis Khan," was the first Filipino feature film to be shown in a major international film festival (in Venice in 1952). His "Tarzan Related" series were political satires that became the pop culture phenomenon of their time. How could Caparas' "massacre" movies measure to Conde's oeuvre—and to those of the other National Artists for film, such as Gerry de Leon and Lino Brocka?

Caparas seems to have put one over the other National Artists because he is National Artist for both film and visual arts. And he's not even a respected komik illustrator! Would Alvarez seem to sit beside Caparas during the proclamation ceremonies? Would Bonoan want to shake his hands?

Although they were nominated, Caparas and Alvarez did not participate during the rigorous selection process. But Malacañang seemed not to care. Ami Alvarez, who was supposed to uphold the selection process because she is, after all, an NCCA official, seemed to share the Palace's smugness.

"The issue is not the President's exercise of her executive powers, nor the qualifications of those concerned, conferred the honors nor by their peers," said Ramon Villegas. "The issue is lack of delicadeza, the honors release of position he and his gain."

If Malacañang feels the controversy will blow over, it could be wrong. The CCP will hold a board meeting tomorrow to define its position. And artist groups are planning protest activities in the run-up to the proclamation ceremonies. Expect the protests to be creative and worthy of a National Artist award.

Truly holy day

If there was one thing that made the recent birthday of fashion designer Bobby Stewarts truly memorable, it was how the Paniqueian community in Sampaloc de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati, all turned out for the Mass celebrated by parish priest, Fr. Joel Salas. Stewarts has been active in the parish's religious activities.

Why Istanbul is mystical

Like Sarah Ban Breathnach in 'Something More,' I wanted to go to Turkey, stand in the ruins of Troy and watch the whirling dervishes

By Christine F Liwanag
Contributor

I BELIEVE THERE ARE places in the world one must witness first-hand. Istanbul, the capital of Turkey, is one.

I was very thankful when a recent business trip allowed me to see this mystical metropolis with my own eyes.

Istanbul is the only city in the world built on two continents, one unit straddling sea to Asia, the other, in Europe. The Bosphorus Strait runs through the city and connects to the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara and the Golden Horn.

It is the former capital of three great empires, the Roman, Christian Byzantine and Islamic Ottoman empires, their rich legacy continuing magnificently today and adding to the charm of modern day Istanbul, where posh flat-out hotels and shopping centres share space with ancient mosques, churches and palaces.

Breathtaking view

After arriving early morning at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport, I took a short cab ride to my hotel. I was delighted to discover that my room provided a breathtaking view of the Bosphorus Strait and Sea of Marmara—an auspicious omen to my five-day stay in this glorious city.

Like Sarah Ban Breathnach in her book, "Something More," I wanted to go to Turkey, stand in the ruins of Troy and watch the whirling dervishes. Unfortunately, Canakkale, where Troy is located, is a five-hour bus ride from Istanbul, and there was only a limited number of flights to the historic seaside town. With my tight schedule, I decided to concentrate on the many historical attractions of Istanbul.

I'm never in a hurry to get to the start of my daily fitness routine—in every meeting, during my stay I took a brisk walk on the lovely terrace of the Beyoglu Botanic, where the Church of St. Anthony de Padua is. Thanks to my daily early morning ambulations, I made good on my promise to lose 10kg in the largest Catholic cathedral in Istanbul.

Official residence

For 26 Turkish liras (about HK$88) I gained entry to Topkapi Palace which, from 1460 to 1853, was the official and primary residence in Istanbul of the Ottoman rulers.

Consisting of four main courtyards and many smaller buildings, this magnificent palace complex is one of several monuments that belong on the "historic areas of Istanbul," which became part of the Unesco World Heritage List in 1985. The palace's imperial Treasury is considered the world's second richest, housing some of Islam's and Christianity's most sacred relics, including the golden dagger that used to concern the cloak of Muhammad, the Footprint Impression of the great prophet, and five hand and arm bones of St. Anne the Baptist set in a golden covering.

I paid an additional 15 Turkish liras (about HK$8) to enter the 400-room Imperial Harem, which was the royal abode of the sultan's wives and concubines, as well as the sexually inert eunuchs who guarded them.

Architectural grandeur

Next on my itinerary was the 1,200 year-old former patriarchal basilica, later mosque and now a museum, the Hagia Sophia. Famous for its massive dome, it is considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture.

I spent a longer time in Hagia Sophia, taking in its architectural grandeur and magnificent mosaics of the Virgin Mary (prominent Presence of the Gryt, Christ the Child, the Archangels Gabriel and Michael, saints, emperors and empresses).

If you like getting in the swagger, you will love Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, one of the world's largest covered markets. An important trading center since 1461, it consists of two domed masonry structures called "bedestens," both for storage and safekeeping of goods.

Its labyrinthine vaults snake through 60 arcades. The Grand Bazaar houses 5,000 shops, attracting between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily.

Boat ride

When her pestering, you can enjoy a boat ride on the Bosphorus, the most salient factor that separates between the European part of Turkey (Thrace) and its Asian part (Anatolia). If you like spices, dried fruits, nuts and sweets, drop by the Spice Bazaar. If you're into art and architecture, visit the Dolmabahce Palace and marvel at its opulent fusion of Neo-Classic, Baroque, Rococo and Ottoman styles.

To experience Istanbul's city life at its most authentic, take a walk on the cobblestones paved Istiklal Street and stops to many restaurants, cafés and shops (watch out for cab drivers who charge price for legitimate; explore the city on foot as much as possible).

Food paradise

Turkey is a food lover's paradise, all of the Chinese and French, Turkish cuisine is the third richest in the world. Cold appetizers (mezes) such as stuffed vine leaves, stuffed green capsicum or aubergine salad pave the way for piping hot main course meals at kebabs, meatballs or, in coastal areas like the Bosphorus, a wide range of fish dishes.

After-meal sweets are aplenty, such as Baklava, Sutlac and custom milk desserts.

The national drink is tea, grown in the eastern Black Sea region; the world-famous Turkish coffee is served in small cups after meals.

I highly recommend Turkish pastrami and sandwiches, kebabs and desserts, especially those served in the 112-year old Hacipiri Restaurant. Turkish Delights—also called Izmir, from cypriotic nuts source—and lemon-flavored jelly candies are ideal for pendulums.

But the genuine once from the 300-year old Hasi Bekir, a confectionary shop reputedly run by the descendants of the man who first created Turkish Delights.

My heartfelt gratitude to Sara Asip and his husband, Uncle Dave Harman, for being such gracious hosts.

My uncle and aunt are retired chemistry and chemical engineering professors in Istanbul's top university.

The president of my company's Turkey office was one of their students.

I am truly blessed to have witnessed glorious Istanbul, an enchanting city that links East and West, the past and present, Islam and Christianity.

Returning to Istanbul would be an easy decision.

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Travel event aims to make RP prime convention hub

...BER OF THE WORLD'S TOP ...ation suppliers and buyers gathered ...ether for the recent "5 Days/ 4 Ni... ...ine Dream Trip 2009" opening recep... ...n at the SMX Convention Center.

...A project of the Philippine Convention ...d Visitors Corporation (PCVC), the ...ent had "pagdiriwang" as its theme. ...partment of Tourism Sec. Ace Durano ...the guests on the Dream Trip—a relax... ...experiential and gastronomic tour of ...ndscaped Iconic Philippines.

The Dream Trip aims to create a posi... ...e and highly favorable impressions of ... Philippines as a meetings, incen... ...s, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) destination. The event show... ...ased the services and facilities of local ...ES companies, giving foreign buyers ... opportunity to learn more about ...ut the Philippines has to offer.

Guests came from all over the world: ...ouchen Comfort Travel Service from ...ng's Wang Po Hua and Beijing Inte... ...ns Story's International Travel Ser... ...e from China; Air Safety Equipment ...nsultant and CEO Captain Hajjat and ...ourier Tours and Travels managing ...rector Dr. Abdul Karim from India; ...n Chamel's Teddy Lim from Singa... ...ic Wonderland Tours and Travel ...epresentative Edward Lu from Taiwan; ...d Convention and Incentive Market... ...ecutive Louis Allen from Australia.

Attendees from the US included Bi... ...ramos, president of Stevens Thrift of ...ramos; Stephen Ruiz of Community ...Conservation from South Carolina; John ...Patterson of Empire Excellence; ...nnis Meadow of Carlson Marketing ...p Minneapolis; and Nancy Hurley of ...Vantage Incentives from Chicago.

...Department of Tourism officials in... ...ded is Philippine Airlines president and ...O Jimmy Syquia welcomed them.

SHENZHEN Comfort Travel Service Company's Wang Yu Hua with his group from China

The welcome remarks were given by SM SMAP and SMX general manager Dennis Dayao, who said there would be more tourism opportunities in the SM Mall of Asia complex with the opening of hotels in a few years' time.

In his speech, Durano called the event "a start—the first international program of its kind hosting suppliers all over the world." He added he was confident that the country would start reaping the fruits within the next few years.

The guests were then treated to a cultural show that showcased Philippine entertainment at its best. There included Banda Kawayan, a unique ensemble of young, talented students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila and the Philippine Opera Company which showcased the evolution of Philippine music through song and movement. The Superdrum Dance Company also performed dances from all over the country.

Mall photo exhibit on Bhutan

A TEAM OF PHILIPPINE PHOTOGRA... photo—Patrick Uy, Evelyn Uy, John Yon... so and Philip Santos—went on a journey ... the royal kingdom of Bhutan.

The photographs Us took of that trip, doc... ...umenting the succession celebrations of Bhutan's king, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and using the latest Nikon Full-Frame 10MP and 14MP DSLR cameras, are now on exhibit at Shangri-La Plaza Mall until today.

The most seasoned travelers consider it a privilege to visit Bhutan, or the "Land of the Thunder Dragon." Uy said it was like "being a National Geographic magazine issue in real time, the ultimate photo and travel assignment" for anyone.

The exhibit is supported by the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Smark, Serena Batiste, Chef Heinhel Co, Coca-Cola, Vivo Mineralized Water and Nikon. Part of the proceeds will benefit the St. Jude Catholic Women's League Medical Clinic, which is dedicated to serving the poor and improving health and community service.

MACAU HONORS APPI

The Macau government recently bestowed an award of recognition on Asia Pacific Projects Inc. (APPI), which handles all the marketing activities of the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) in the Philippines, for 11 years of distinguished service in representing MGTO in the country. APPI is a tourism and hospitality consulting firm established in the Philippines in 1992 by former Tourism Sec. Mercedes Z. Lim and Ludwig Baaske. The photo shows (from left) Dr. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, deputy director of MGTO; Mercedes Lim, president of APPI; Engr. Jose Manuel Costa Antunes, director of MGTO; and Dr. Manuel Goncalves Pires Jr., deputy director of MGTO.

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Celeb chef at Israeli food festival

ONE OF ISRAEL'S RISING CULINARY stars will be in Manila on Aug. 13-16 to preside over an Israeli food festival at the Fiesta Uno of Mandarin Oriental, Manila.

Chef Zion Barnea, named by the food magazine Al Hashulchan in Israel as one of the country's "eight outstanding chefs of the next generation," presents his country's cuisine during the week-long gastronomic event organized jointly by Mandarin Oriental, Manila and the Embassy of Israel in the Philippines.

CHEF Zion Barnea

The 28-year-old Israeli chef hails from Tel Aviv and has trained under Alain Passard, a three Michelin-star chef, at the latter's L'Arpège restaurant in Paris, France. Barnea currently maintains a leading food blog and works as a chef at Raphael's, a culinary showcase in Israel.

For the Fiesta Uno festival, Barnea will focus more on Arabic-influenced Israeli cuisine, and will include an extensive array of fresh spreads, dips and salads. Israel's rich history is deeply enlivened in its everyday menus, which combines a fusion of aromatic herbs and spices, fresh green vegetables, olives, hummus, cheese and hearty meat such as lamb and veal.

"Typical Israeli fare comes from its population's migrations from neighboring countries in the Middle East and Mediterranean Europe regions.

Prior to the festival, the celebrity chef will also demonstrate his specialties in a cooking demonstration on Aug. 6 at 3 p.m. The fee is P3,500.

Among the dishes he will prepare for the buffet lunch and dinner are hummus salad with mushroom or meat, and whole chickpeas "hamsh" salad made with vegetables, herbs and Mediterranean croutons; "majadara" (rice and lentil stew) and shawarma, grilled lamb necks marinated in Israeli spices.

Boots Lloreta 7506986

Free cataract screening for senior citizens

In line with the "Sight Saving Month" program of the Department of Health, Borough Medical Care Institute offers free cataract screening for senior citizens for the whole month of August.

Those interested to avail of the free screening must bring their senior citizens' ID (an ID any of the branches of Borough Medical Care Institute located at SP Cabe Che Bldg., Eastwood City, 0917-4 894581 - 0633 / 539-3329/580 - 1862/396-2163; 3/F Multi Asia, main mall south (582-8181 582-8182 to 83) and SP Plaza, 233-233, Bldg. 280 (8868 Diplomacy, Ortigas Ave., Subic Bay Freeport Zone (047-252-7919).

Religious pilgrimage in Europe

A pilgrimage to some religious sites in CD, 14-30 in Europe has been organized by author Rebecca "Chit" dela Torre. The sites include Portugal, Spain, France and Italy. The group of pilgrims shall be accompanied by a chaplain (tel. 913-8936/ 913-6825 or e-mail chitdelatorre@yahoo.com).

Musical at Ateneo

Opening Ateneo Blue Repertory's 15th season is "Bob, Tom ... Rooney!" the available graphic/pop-rock musical by Jonathan Larson, creator of "Rent," the musical will be directed by Bibi Garcia.

The production stars Jaime Bautista, Marc Bellaguil and Egay Tapion, who will take turns as Jon Bon Bonbib, Brad Alderson and Mikky Javier take turns as Michael, Mom Rosalcuil, Laura Cabochan and Justin Pena will play the role of Sandy.

Photography lecture

Mandy Navarro launches a weekly lecture on various fields of photography from Aug. 1 to Sept. 12. The most historic of Navarro's 3rd guest lecturers will also participate. Lectures will be held every Sat., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For inquiries, e-mail mandynavarro@yahoo.com or visit her studio at No. 331 Life Design Place, 210 Nuevo Santa St., Bel-Air II, Makati City (tel. 899-1761/ 896-3206/ 899-1751/ 896-3308/ 09/0-1200-94).

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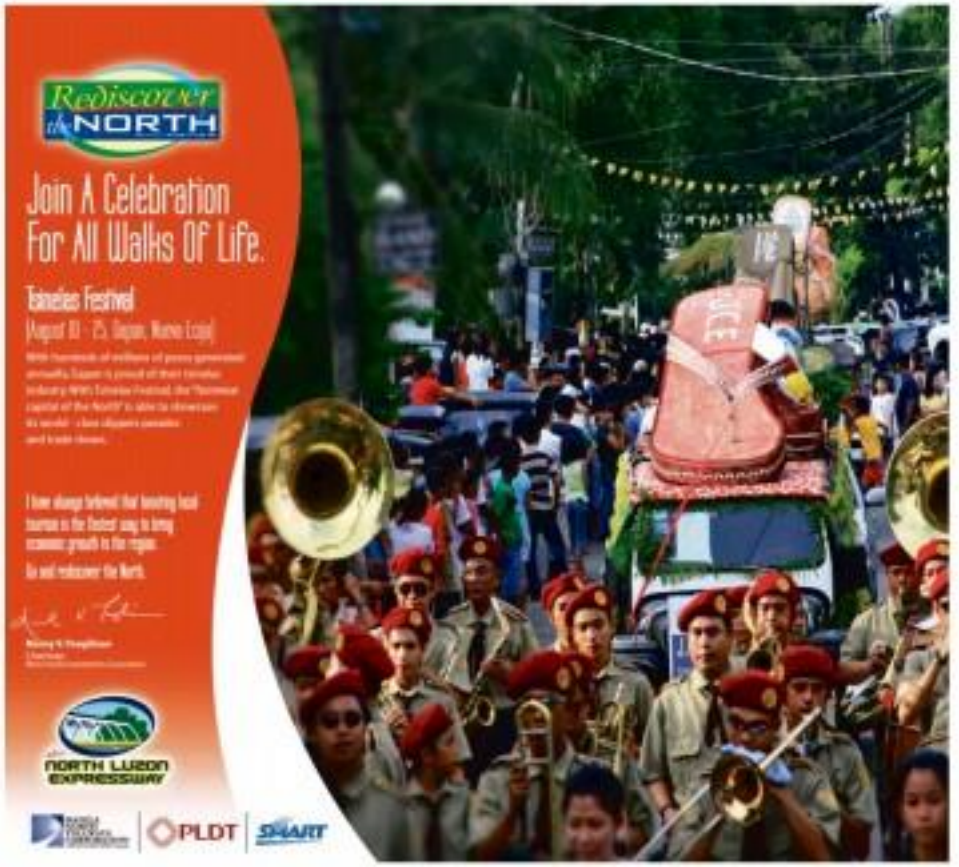


IN THIS ISSUE
■ Why Pitoy Moreno cried when he was proclaimed National Artist /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Shopping, eating, sunning, relaxing—in Thailand

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT the hard-core shopper-in-me came up with a fourth of a metric ton in check-in luggage, but yes, that's exactly the situation my friends and I found myself in at Bangkok Airport last week.

Luckily we were with Thai Airways GM Nirat Chantawichord. So with a respectful bow here and a smile there, all the excess poundage was magically gone. Oh, if only Nirat could do the same with our bodies, he would surely give Vicki Belo a run for her money.

Making Thailand is such an amazing city. On the **shopping** inclination of club king **Tin Yap** to zen him in a spa-soaking party-ing Thai trip, I barely cleared my work and training schedules.

Thai Airways is presenting several travel packages to key cultural cities in Thailand, with hands-free packages for luxurious spa breaks, family trips or golfing. For more info, check out www.thaiairways.com or www.mydestinholidays.com.

We settled for a three-city tour—Chiang Mai for mountain culture, Phuket for beach culture and Bangkok for urban culture—spread

Making curry paste from scratch, I was happy to pound the chili once—for the photo op

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

over a week, with equal time for shopping, eating, sunning and relaxing!

SHOPPING 11

PERFORMERS of the spectacular Siam Niramit show in Bangkok

SEXY swimsuit designer Charina Sarte and fashionista Jenel Epperson at Chatuchak Weekend Market

ELEPHANT lovers frolicking with the animals in the Park

VISUALS: Taj by the temple halls of Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Shopping, eating, sunning, relaxing–in T

From page F1

Majestic beauty

Our first stop was the northern city of Chiang Mai. Blessed with majestic natural beauty, it is also has over 300 temples, with one reason, God as the mastermind—Mr. Phrachai Dechsubhaja—which has a commanding view of the city like good tourists, we enjoyed every angle of the temple and its gigantic temple bells.

No visit to Chiang Mai is complete without seeing an elephant show. The elephants were highly trained, grabbing bananas, painting with their trunks and doing all sorts of tricks. Happily pregnant Indonesian Jenni Epperson exercised her hubby Sam at the snapped photos of the huge animals. Check out her site www.jennieppperson.com.

For the true shopping aficionado though, there is the Chiang Mai night bazaar right next to the Centara Duangtawan Hotel. Here we found handicrafts made from silk, silver and wood. There was plenty and heavy discounts accounted for several kilos of our final damage.

Our first spa and cooking experience was at Bartholets Spa and Resort, where we actually made curry paste from scratch. Sexy chef Steph Zubiri was in cooking heaven, while I was happy to pound the chili ones—for the photo op. Like me, sultry swimsuit designer Charina Sarte was more excited to eat and relax in the spa.

Spa resorts

The second city on our Thai break was world famous Phuket, known for its spa resorts and entertaining nightlife. Our resort was centered on the Thai Beach Resort & Spa, where the rooms opened into a courtyard pool—just perfect for me to dip in and think about how I could be in the middle of training for the upcoming Ironman 70.3 in Cozumel.

Our tour group now grew even more, as best friends Pia Gonzalo and Claudine Tribo joined us. These local women could only join us for five days, but they really got to enjoy the beach and stores up Thailand during their short stay.

We explored the fantastic landscape and powdery white-sand islands of Hong Bay, swimming and snorkeling with colorful fishes. Phuket is a big island with many beaches in discreet—Lots female bay, Phuk-ocet and Phi Phi Don, plus Viking cave. Bamboo Island, Hai Bay and Monkey beach.

Neighboring Phi Phi Island is famous to the rest of the movie "The Beach," starring Leonardo DiCaprio. We all did our photo jumps just like in the movie, but didn't get the filming right.

Our triple-engine speedboat took us to Island-hopping. It got exciting as we got caught in a squall between the islands. Pia and Steph did enjoy the ride screaming their encouragements and cries. Though birthday girl Charina had four in her eyes, we knew we were safe with those three-foot engines. Once we hit land, all was forgotten and we celebrated the night with the hotel's Pinoy band.

Kilo damage

Shopping was limited to Phuket because it was raining, so most of the kilo damage was accumulated in Bangkok. Our hotel, Centara Grand at Central World, is the best location to be if you are a die-hard shopper. There are more four or five huge malls within walking distance to the hotel—Central World, Pinen, Siam Square, Gaysorn Plaza and Siam Paragon.

Thai fashion designers are awesome in using interesting fabrics and color combinations. Charina was the spotter for great finds and Jenni acted as fashion police to check on worthy purchases. Tim and I just oked everything. There's an ongoing nationwide super sale, up to 70 percent off, so it's easy to understand how we piled on the shopping loot.

PHOTO bombarding beauties Claudine Tribo, Tim Tay, Steph Zubiri, Pia Gonzalo, Charina Sarte and Thai Airways GM Nirut Chamnanchat

TOURING Centara Grand Hotel's Sal Sky Bar

ALL SMILES during the boat ride. Charina Sarte, Pia Gonzalo, Tim Tay, Steph Zubiri and Claudine Tribo

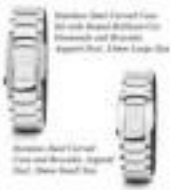
THAI version of Ms Dinsdale in Phuket

BIRTHDAY girl Charina is greeted onstage by the Hard Machine Band at Bar Thai Hard

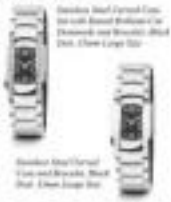
Bvlgari presents

Assioma D **in Steel & Diamonds**

Making its debut in 2009 is Bulgari's *Assioma D* Steel and Diamonds, an extension of the *Assioma D* ladies watch line. The collection was created especially for confident and elegant women and expresses refinement, discrete allure and feminine seduction in a perfect balance of forms.



Contemporary lines and profiles reinterpret the values of classic Bulgari elegance. The use of precious materials confirms the exclusive distinction of refined femininity with unexpected combinations, such as steel and diamonds.



Once again diamonds are the stars of this collection, synonymous with purity. They are used with steel in a unique and versatile combination for contemporary women, characteristic of Bulgari jewelry.

The *Assioma D* collection also includes elegant versions in yellow, pink and white gold embellished with diamond pavé, and unique pieces set with diamonds, sapphires and baguette rubies that are offered as part of the High Jewelry collection.

The Assioma D collection is available at Bulgari Boutique located in Greenbelt 4 (750-0001 to 03), 4/F, Ayala Avenue Corner (893-8288) and watch corners in Rustan's Makati, Edsa and Alabang Town Center.

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BA in Multimedia Arts*
BA in Music Production
BA in Photography*
BA in Theater Arts (Design)
BA in Technical Theater
BA major in Fashion Design and Merchandising
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance*
(in consortium with Ballet Philippines - CCP Dance School)
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Architecture***
BS in Industrial Design
BS in Interior Design*
(in consortium with Philippine School of Interior Design)

School of Multidisciplinary Studies
AB major in Communication and Multimedia Arts

School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management**
BS in Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management
(Tracks in Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, and Travel and Tourism Management)
BS in International Hospitality Management****

School of Management and Information Technology
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) major in Consumer Applications
BSBA major in Export Management
BSBA major in Financial Management
BSBA major in Business Management****
BSBA major in Marketing Management****
BS in Information Systems
BS in Information Technology (with joint specialization in Game Settings and Development)****

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La Chaine des Roti has 1001 ni

SCHEHERAZADE would have loved the latest hash of La Chaine des Rotisseurs' Cebu chapter. It had a 1001 nights theme, held at the garden of Michel and Augusta Lhuillier's house at Mario Luna Street Park.

"Welcome to La Mer," chimed swaying brunettes as each guest arrived. As tuxbearded maestro Jose is drydate, they flashed belly buttons, flapped fans of peacock feathers and salsaun-ed to the direction of the receiving line.

Michel was like a genie of some enchanted golden room in a forgotten time.

A practi-cus his no-host hold as, signate is Augusta, Imagine was a hotel from paradise, swapped in glittery silks. Flames of all colors rose several feet above a dinner-in-the-hood.

A guest who knows and loves them said: "They enjoy every minute of their celebrations. And they've made for each other. He presides La Chaine in the Philippines and she heads the Cebu chapter, and they're perfect for the roles."

One may call that a high score for compatibility. Today, they celebrate their 45th anniversary.

Oriental music was provided by Beng Ramos.

Middle East cuisine was prepared by Lebanese executive chef Ibrahim Dbeissi and Peru's Jud del Prado.

Costumes were as dazzling and colorful that Augusto decided to grant prizes for the best. The three most colorful were picked as judges.

They were Martin Rieger from the Union Bank of Switzerland in Hong Kong, Jose

ASH ORIENTAL [illegible] Gonzalez, Herna Lhuillier

Jaime Piccoreel

FRANCO Poh's [illegible] Manny Oyanedia Sandra Nayda

TBIG Hmood at a banquet in Chiang Mai

Thailand

AING colorful aprons at Ravijinda Resort and Spa's cooking session with owner Prasert Jirasasitt

classes are the potential of such an tourism gamble if we can pull it off. On board, we marveled at Bangkok's floodlit riverside landmarks, including the sparkling Grand Palace and the majestic Wat Arun (the Temple of Dawn).

Later, the chaotic told me this cruise was achievable once we get the Hong Salmonella. The band was, after all, from our country! After dinner, there was dancing on deck, mostly from a large group of Pinoy tour operators, or even the auditorium was familiar.

Another Bangkok must-see, agents promised, and to jack up the cosmic luggage fall, is Chatuchak Weekend Market. Here, there are accessories and clothes as far as the eye can see, and it is the best place to buy pasalubong. If we had an extra night, we would have visited the Iman Lan Night Bazaar, but by then even Hiroo might have had to call in the airline president to waive the charges.

Gosh, shopping can be truly so much fun, at least until the credit card bills arrive. Thank goodness Thailand has a VAT refund to take some of the sting off.

Email the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

sseurs' Cebu bash ights theme

sh with Jacqueline Llamas Lindblad, Marinez Lampert, Louie and Honeylet Florencio and Michel

Sergio Richards
about Maribina
on its Las Vegas
ments in Cebu to
flew more than
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Amparito, the
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ed a free and
ated. The judges
ot plain glitzing,
ats were blatant
ard Judge Bernie
e couples (costs
Darwinia, I love
matinee Guinea-
Bruce and "I die"
s held at the Ca-

Nico Hazel and Miriam's
with Mila Dumaolin and

La Chaine events

One wonders what Schoolmaniacs would have said about Oz whole thing. She'll have plenty to spin in the coming months about events found up by La Chaine in Cebu. The most hush has already been set for Aug. 27 at the Hilton in Mactan.

GM Harold Francisco and Manny Ocmeña are mapping out the details. It's a throwback to the 1920s and 1930s. Take out your Great Gatsby Bayrees, Amparito suggests. Per the men, dark suits. The setup is a "Casino Royale" complete with gaming tables and revue show.

The Hilton bash promises to be grand, to date the one scheduled in October at the Manhattan Hotel.

GM Bev Abrahams says the theme will be Halloween, of course.

Next thing we know is will be Christmas, and our words before the holidays. It will be time for a formal gala to celebrate La Chaine's anniversary in Cebu. It will be at the Mactan Bebe Plaza Hotel. Elegance will be supreme, says GM Hans Hauer, who wrote in to say: "Men and sex."

Kids—Ambassadors of Light—need help to join Korean fest

AMBASSADORS OF LIGHT (AOL) is the name Anderson Go gave a group of children aged seven to 14 who are "straightened" for musically by Assistant Andersen himself Tom Ishinight to 14 years old. His mother, DESTRUCted German musician when she was pregnant with him.

This condition didn't stop nodernan from taking up music. He was the first "straightened" graduate of Music at the Philippine Women's University. He is a tenor. And he wanted children with the same special conditions to be given a chance to pursue a music career.

AOL was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 14, 2003, with Parents Advocates for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC) and Resources for the Blind Inc. (RFB).

Korea music fest

The Taewon Boys Foundation

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barang

cancer in people with disabling who are in the field of art. They are organizing the Watchoolfi. Music Festival, to be held in Korea, Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

Ambassadors of Light list: Ivan Ivero, invited and five members will need assistance for their plane tickets. Please text Anderson at 0908-7408510, call 904-7488, or Melou at 0928-2182277. On their return to Manila, Geraldine Ortiz, vice chair of the Foundation, and Sonia Arafeg, PhD, will organize a fundraising concert for schoolists.

San Roque fiesta

Fr. Andy Ortega Lito, parish priest of San Roque Parish in Mandaluyong, has prepared a nine-day Novena of Masses from Aug. 7-15, 6 p.m., in honor San Roque whose feast day falls on Aug. 16. Fiesta Masses on Aug. 16 will have Archbishop Auxiliary Bishop Francisco de Leon celebrating Mass at 9:45 a.m., while Bishop Renerious Tendero Ba-

and will say Mass at 4:45 p.m. Procession follows at 6 p.m.

Mass celebrants during novena days at 6 p.m. are Fr. Robert Gan (Aug. 7), Bishop Bernardino Cortes (Aug. 8), Bishop Jun Nillogan (Aug. 9), Fr. Gerard Mund who will hold a Healing Mass (Aug. 10), Msgr. Eloy Gonzaga (Aug. 11), Msgr. Emilio Lo (Aug. 12), Fr. Elmer Encarnacion (Aug. 13), Fr. Andy Lito (Aug. 14), and Msgr. Bobby Cardeo (Aug. 15). San Roque, or Saint Roch in French, is invoked against plagues.

Giving rice away

It is a tradition in San Roque Church in Cardo City to give away bags of rice on the feast in Cardo City on the feast of San Roque. Novena Masses will be held Aug. 7-15, 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. A "festival" will take place on Aug. 15 at 2 p.m., to coordinators with the Cofradia de la Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Puerto Vaga, with Bro. Ryan Enriquez as president. Grandchildren of Mama will be on Aug. 16 at 9:30 a.m. Fr. Ernie Reyes is the new parish priest.

New parish priest

Fr. Vic Bobbin, who built the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan, will be installed new parish priest of San Juan Evangelista Parish on Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m. The church is located in Santo Agbagan, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Listen to Filipino visionary healer Carmelo Gomez on Sundays at 12 noon to 1 p.m. at Radio Veritas 846 AM band.

Flash your school spirit with limited edition UAAP Plug Its

Hot, hip Smart Bro Plug It gives you high speed mobile internet access on the go— so you won't miss out on the action as your fave team clinches the game to victory

SEASON 71 OF UAAP WILL BRING SOME VERY FIERCE AND exciting action in the next four to five months, as rabid fans of college sports – whether students or alumni – pack their concentrated attention and energy on watching their school teams perform, hopefully to victory.

Indeed, beyond instilling interest in sports, one big achievement of the 71-year-old University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) is the way it has fired up the tribal urge among students to uphold the good old alma mater spirit. Eight member universities compete in 15 sports, with basketball being the most popular, watched and supported; chess; beach volleyball; judo; swimming; taekwondo; table tennis; baseball; football; softball; tennis; track and field; volleyball; fencing; and badminton, as well as cheerdance.

Like the UAAP, the Internet has helped build a community of collegiate sports devotees who find comfort, support and identity in each other as they share a common fascination and devotion to their sports online.

Sports fans get an extra fix from internet forums – reviewing recaps of past seasons and making fearless forecasts for the coming games. All in keeping with the school esprit de corps, then Facebook, Twitter, Plurk, Multiply and Sandbox accounts are agog with boosting and boasting entries for their teams, team-by-team and player-to-player statistical analyses flood cyberspace, as fans and athletes alike keep faithful sigil over the games online.

To boost the new season and support the UAAP's aim of fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship among students, Smart Bro has partnered with the UAAP to create new limited edition dongles with your school team member emblazoned on them.

The hottest gadget to stir up a Mobile Internet craze in town, the Smart Bro Plug It is a wireless modem that looks like a flash disk. You simply plug it into your laptop to give you Internet connectivity anywhere, anytime.

Smart Bro's Plug It empowers you to better manage your life no matter how busy you are with school, your org, family duties, and your social life. On-the-go connectivity gives you more productivity, and Smart Bro's fast Internet connection gives you a step up in enjoying the perks of a mobile lifestyle.

With their bold, electrifying designs, you can even wear the UAAP Plug It as a fashion accessory – as a pendant with your school ID necklace, a bag tag, or any other way you can imagine – and look stylish without appearing like a tech geek (although some may not mind looking so).

The iconic the UAAP Plug It is a real cool way to flash your school spirit and stay connected online wherever and whenever, so that you don't miss out on the latest happenings in UAAP.

Smart is producing only a few thousand units for each school. A lot of students and loyal alumni have already placed their orders for the UAAP Plug Its. Make sure you get yours before they run out. The Smart Bro limited edition UAAP Prepaid Plug It is available at P1,995 and comes pre-loaded with Smart Bro's regular five hours of surfing time.

Just log on to www.smart.com.ph/bro and click on the promos and fill-out the reservation form or you may go to SMART Wireless Centers or to Smart Bro booths during the games to pre-order your UAAP Plug Its.

Gotta love The Saturdays at SM Supermalls!

SPEND THIS SATURDAY WITH THE SATURDAYS AT SM MEGAMALL

Britain's hottest girl group is coming to Manila and you can see them live at SM Megamall this weekend! On Saturday, August 8th at 3:30pm, Frankie, Mollie, Vanessa, Rochelle and Una will liven up the Activity Center as they perform their popular dance tunes from their debut album, Chasing Lights.

The Saturdays earned their fame from their chart-topping singles, If This is Love, Up and the remake of Depeche Mode's Just Can't Get Enough. Up has also been among the top singles on iTunes and Billboard. Their new singles, Issues and Work have also surpassed the 3-million hit count on YouTube.

Before they became The Saturdays, the girls had already made names for themselves on their own: half-Filipino Vanessa White grew up in Davao before moving to the UK and attending the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School. Frankie Sanford and Rochelle Wiseman belonged to a group known as the S Club Juniors. Mollie King performed in the UK show, X Factor and appeared in two episodes of an online show called Sam King. Una, meanwhile, was a member of a rock band before auditioning for the group.

The Saturdays' promotional concert at SM Megamall will be hosted by Toryboi, Slick Rick and Sam Y G from Boys Night Out on Magic 89.9.

As the center for the ultimate mulling experience, SM Megamall hosts world-class entertainment, limitless shopping options and diverse dining selections, all under one roof. And with valet parking plus free WiFi access anywhere you go, who says a day at the mall can't be an absolute convenience as well?

After a week of beating deadlines and hectic schedules, everyone looks forward to a weekend of leisure, fun and entertainment! What better way of unwinding can you think of but to have the ultimate mulling experience SM Supermalls! This Friday, August 7 at 5 p.m. The Saturdays will be at The Block at SM North Edsa and on Saturday, August 8 at 3:30 p.m. don't miss the hottest British girl group as they perform live at the Activity Center of SM Megamall.

Promoting world-class entertainment, SM Supermalls will be a venue for Frankie, Mollie, Vanessa, Rochelle and Una as they come to Manila for their promotional tour for their debut album, Chasing Lights.

Coming from their own paths of fame in UK, these five girls all have come together at an audition in 1997 and came to be. The Saturdays. From then on they have established a name as a group as their tracks have been a favorite background music in several TV shows. Billboard affirms their chart topping singles with a review of their album saying, "Has infectious quality which proves the recent top 10 success of their singles."

The Saturdays offers us a little bit of everything in their songs. Giving us ballads, R&B and songs that you can definitely dance to. They give us a modern kind of pop, a genre which is a staple in the music industry.

Now don't miss this opportunity, go to SM North Edsa and SM Megamall to get a chance to see The Saturdays Live!

'The Saturdays offers us a little bit of everything in their songs. Giving us ballads, R&B and songs that you can definitely dance to. They give us a modern kind of pop, a genre which is a staple in the music industry'

Lito Emerio G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

The pressure on KC

KC CONCEPCION, CHALK MAGAZINE (10th anniversary issue) cover girl, on people's expectations: "Of course, somehow I feel pressured... Like the time I went to Mindanao to help the people there... It was hard work... I'm glad that somehow my efforts were recognized."

Erap glad to be back on-cam: I'm still sharp

By Maimel S. Cruz
Photos by Jim Custo Punsalan

"I'M STILL SHARP"

This was the reply of former president Joseph "Erap" Estrada when interviewers asked if he had any trouble remembering his lines for "Ang Tanging Pamilya: A Marry Go Round," his first movie in two decades.

"I finished most of my scenes today in one take," Estrada boasted, success visited the movie set on Wednesday. The biker-themed film was shooting in San Juan. Members of the production team said Estrada arrived at 10 a.m., an hour ahead of his call time, in working clothes and ready with his lines.

"I enjoyed my first working day," Estrada said shortly after pack-up at 7:30 p.m. "It helped that we polished the script during our story conferences."

"He hasn't lost his touch," said Estrada. "If anyone's feeling the pressure, it's me. I get very conscious when I remember that I'm working with a president. I make sure I call him President. Iyon ang sa mga artistang."

"I call him Mayor Joseph," said lead actress Ai Ai de las Alas, who reprised the role, at 10:30 a.m. "I made sure I got here ahead of him. I came in late during a previous meeting kaya medyo nagagalit siya sa akin," she admitted.

As a "gift" to her leading man, De las Alas evidently had brought to the set hamburgers and kalderetas. "I asked Precy [Estrada's daughter-in-law and wife of Jinggoy Estrada] what gift Papa Erap [WANTS]

SHOOTING a bed scene with Ai Ai de las Alas, above. The production team is adhering to some [illegible]

BELO CONTINUES TO GROW AND GLOW

Bringing beauty to Filipinos one mall at a time

As the leading name in the field of cosmetic surgery and dermatology in the Philippines, the Belo Medical Group strengthens its lead in the industry by bringing its services to premiere shopping malls around the country. In this way, it hopes to reach out and make beauty an attainable dream for more deserving Filipinos.

Dr. Victoria Belo brings her world-class brand closer to more Filipinos as it opens its newest clinic in one of the busiest malls in Metro Manila. Belo is now located at the Atrium in SM Megamall.

While the Belo Medical Group is more well-known for cosmetic surgery, it also houses, especially in its mall-based branches, the best and the latest machines for non-invasive skin and body procedures.

A great body and perfect skin are possible with the help of various laser, radiofrequency and ultrasound machines, paired with the expertise and experience of the Belo Medical Group doctors.

Among its most popular non-invasive treatments are laser hair removal, Metamorpe and Bioscalpt for body contouring, and FirmPlus, Multipolar and Tense for the improvement of loose, sagging skin and cellulite.

RadioPhotonic Treatment

The Mega Atrium clinic proudly offers Belo's most recent non-invasive procedure with the RadioPhotonic treatment. This new treatment utilizes a combination of the latest in radiofrequency technology and phototherapy (LED), together with customized medication to treat a variety of concerns. Together, they work synergistically in rejuvenating and lifting the face, and smoothening and tightening the body. Its benefits include skin moisturizing, tightening, tightening and firming. It also helps reduce stretch marks, cellulite, pigmentation, and acne.

Talented singer-actress Karylle keeps her radiant glow with the RadioPhotonic treatment, while singer and heartthrob Christian Bautista undergoes the treatment to keep his skin healthy and hydrated.

World Class

Through the years, the Belo Medical Group has gained respect both here and abroad. Dr. Belo, hailed "Ambassadress of Beauty" for the Philippines, strongly promotes the country as a world-class cosmetic surgery destination.

The Belo Medical Group merited international recognition as the number one clinic in the Philippines with the most number of Thermage and Fraxel procedures for 2008. The Belo Medical Group also won the same award for Thermage last 2007.

Belo Medical Group at the Mega Atrium

With its long list of accomplishments and its wide array of services, the Belo Medical Group continues to grow. The ninth Belo clinic is now open at the 5th level of the Mega Atrium, SM Megamall. As part of tradition, the Mega Atrium clinic is offering an opening promo, giving patients 20% off on all services until August 30, 2009.

For more information call the Belo hotline at 819-BELO. You can also visit www.belomed.com or e-mail info@belomed.com.

'Astig': Dark view of

We can't shake off the nagging feeling that we've seen most of this before in Lino Brocka's movies

ONE OF THE MOST
studded movies in the 3
midnest festival is "Astig,"
ais Trillo, Sid Lucero,
Liatco, Arnold Reyes an
Romero playing (super
other name players cast in
cameo parts.

CB Leopoldo's film is
terwoven. The lives of
some nameless survivors
of the big city's rat race,
where people use and
abuse each other to keep
from sinking into the quag-
mire of filth, hunger and
desperation.

It's a dark view of life,
that the "mythology" Sha-
espouses, with precious few
light piercing the doom a
scenario.

That is in-your-face re
does have a place on our
screens, and some of the s
viewers where they live mo

We can't shake off the nag
ing that we've seen most
here in the late Lino Brocka'

"Doing a Brocka" isn't
way to go, but Jadlos set to
be less referential and more
pelled than that.

Also a problem is the ca
ing, because some pivo
turn out to be not so great
ing despairment. Some troub
to do justice to their d
roles.

We commend Tessie
roughing up the usually ro
most image) to play a roug
character, but his adjust
mostly superficial.

Dino for the otherwise
Glaiza de Castro, who ha
her suicidal character com
bic to viewers. This is a ro
sorting challenge that the ac
fully wrap her talents around

Arnold Reyes does bette
nny who's not allowed t
with the Hinoda family
door left behind. Has his mo
es a gay complication that
much attention to itself.

Bel Lucero's participation
ive, but his character is ge

Erap gla

From page A1

would like. Pinoy said to join

In "Ang Tanging Pamilya,"
ensely once did, especially
ipersonated by Toni Gonzaga
da para Charlie's Angels (Nan
Estrada explained. "Pero sa
will remaining franchise [Erik
ne stand true. I resisted to g

De la Sala described her c
doting mom to six children.
Hollywood movie 'Meet the
added.

Estrada, who won last ear
"In Relasyong Agila," was plea
n is so similar to movies done
scored, "we had to go to the
before we could see what we
ld. The director can easily sp
be's re-shoot."

Estrada said he agreed to
ng, but to help alleviate the
Pinoys. "Maraming natulun
nersin sila, pumisan sila sa

The former president said
ABS-CBN's Ramon Bautista
hands for absurd and homele

Because their lead actor is
minute until the production
safety measures. One is that
avillar when in San Juan, Estra

Plus, the director said, "I
Cembrano, where he will shoo
ila Cinema of Boating during
dem Erap's followers."

Estrada said: "I have no fe
and the terrorist group Abu
bodyguards (always on the
attacked and killed me."

"Ang Tanging Pamilya," p
ssistance by a panel of writers
Manalgas, Aziz Gutmiz, A
Quibilan. The movie will be sh

E-mail: metro@inquirer.n

RTAINMENT

life in the cruel city

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

...agreed to reserving to the dire things that happen to the other characters, especially to his younger sister (Gloria). Despite his earnest efforts, his character fails to come into his own.

The same fear befalls Chenda Romero as the shoplifter-mother of a young man Edgar Allan Guzman) who's about to become a father and is forced to do anything to make money for the baby's hospital bills.

This subplot is focused on her son's travails, as Chenda's character has to take the back seat.

This is understandable, but it really would have been better for the film as a whole if it had done a more positive, classic job of more closely interweaving the many lives it dramatizes.

As for many of the guest stars' cameo appearances, they happen too fast to make much of a difference, mostly the pity Bo "Bodg" is available for his scenes and other elements that do come off well, but the viewer isn't be fooled for missing the movie that would have been.

'Flight of the Conchords'

The irreverent HBO musical-comedy series "Flight of the Conchords" starts its second season Aug. 3 at 11 p.m. The series revolves around the New York adventures of transplanted New Zealanders Jermaine and Bret.

Chynna Hortaleza

GMA-7 actress Chynna Hortaleza represented Simon Secretary Sophia at the anniversary festivities of La Fuente Supermarket in Lucena City. She helped distribute school bags to students as part of Simon' advocacy for healthy adolescent development.

'Chef Abroad'

Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on Discovery Travel and Living, "Chef Abroad" shows chef Michael Smith searching for fascinating people and stories behind food cultures worldwide — from the Jungle Band Cafeteria in Calibration to Sweden's Ice Hotel.

The pack is back!
Chill out with the whole family & experience the next level in cinema entertainment with
ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
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Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.
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Ayala Malls Cinemas
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Featuring
THX Certified Auditoriums
THX
★★★★
DON'T JUST SEE A MOVIE.
"Enjoy the best movie experience EVER."

HELPLESS in her arms, Al Al calls him "Papa Bear."

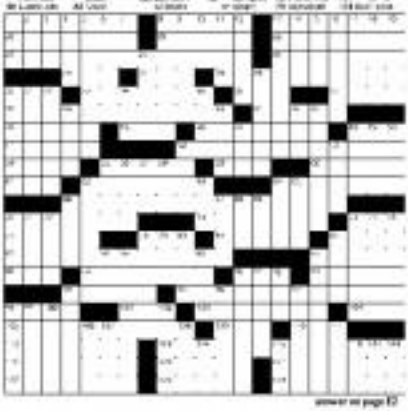
OPENS AUG. 12

d ...

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ON A KAY-TO-KAY BASIS



answer on page E7

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and get fierce!

Subscribe to any of these exclusive plans and get a Beyonce "I Am...Sasha Fierce" CD and "The Beyonce Experience LIVE" Concert DVD for FREE!

Plus, a chance to be one of three winners to watch Beyonce LIVE in concert!

Trip includes:
An all-expense paid trip for two to Perth, Australia
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• "I Am..." concert tickets • $400 pocket money

To join, text
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Sony Ericsson

www.smart.com.ph/gold

* Includes roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations and spot pocket money. New applications are subject to a 24-hour hold to permit credit guidance on spou. Interested applicants must bring the following documents: valid ID, proof of billing, latest financial statements (ITR or BIR Subscribers can also avail of the handset on credit card application together with a valid ID. FREE handsets under Plan 800, and Plan 1200 must be availed under our basic Hotel Agreement; otherwise, cash out is required. For details, please call 1888 through your SMART cellphone, Dial888 from through landline. Promo duration from July 24 to September 30, 2009. Terms of Use.

sandbox READY

SMART Gold, Sony Ericsson give away Beyonce Concert tickets!

leading wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART), through its postpaid brand SMART Gold, and innovative global mobile brand Sony Ericsson give new SMART Gold subscribers CDs of Beyonce's latest album "I Am... Sasha Fierce", DVDs of "The Beyonce Experience" concert, and a chance to see Beyonce perform live in concert in Perth, Australia.

New SMART Gold subscribers availing of any of the following Sony Ericsson handsets — W580i, W705, C902, G705 — will each receive a CD of Beyonce's latest album "I Am... Sasha Fierce" and a DVD of "The Beyonce Experience" concert for free.

"Through SMART Gold, we would like our subscribers to enjoy a great music experience by offering Sony Ericsson's feature-packed mobile phones that fit the music-loving subscriber's lifestyle," said SMART Marketing Group Head Annie Nasol. "SMART Gold always offers great handset deals to perfectly match our subscribers' lifestyles to better serve them."

"When you combine the wide range of communication and entertainment features found in Sony Ericsson handsets, with SMART's innovative services and superior network coverage, subscribers are assured of the best mobile experience," said Sony Ericsson General Manager Dennis Manasala.

Through the Beyonce I on promo, SMART Gold and Sony Ericsson also give subscribers a chance to watch Beyonce perform live in her "I am..." concert in Burswood Dome, Perth Australia on September 24, 2009. Three lucky subscribers get a chance to win an all-expenses paid trip for two which will include roundtrip airfare for two persons, two-night hotel accommodation, and pocket money worth US$1,000.

To join the Beyonce I on raffle promo, SMART Gold subscribers just need to register to the raffle promo by texting BEYONCE<space> Name/Address/Cellphone Model and send to 3830. Promo is open to all SMART Gold subscribers who avail of any of the participating Sony Ericsson handsets within the promo period. Promo runs from July 24, 2009 to September 30, 2009.

Annie P. Nasol
Marketing Group Head
SMART Communications, Inc.

Dennis Manasala
General Manager
Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications Philippines

ENTERTAINMENT

Ryan Reynolds on Scarlett and Sandra

LOS ANGELES—"I HOPE AS hell [tape on or we have a problem," Ryan Reynolds joked when signed if his wife, actress Scarlett Johansson, has wedding rings that match his. Ryan explained their striking wedding bands [were joined together]. "That was the design."

Like Scarlett, Ryan says only a few words about their romance. With a straight face, he teased his way through most of the questions involving Scarlett, whom he married in a private ceremony in his native Canada last September. In "The Proposal," he plays an assistant to Sandra Bullock's boss. Bravo had [who proposes to him in movie] spectacular to Canada.

He [who asked how he proposed to Scarlett and the actor joked his way out of that, too.

What's noticeably on the opening is Ryan's career. Fresh from "The Proposal" [and] [his] offbeat performances, he landed two superhero roles. He [stars in a feature] as Deadpool, the character he introduced in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine." The 32-year-old actor also bagged "The Green Lantern" role.

Can you talk about Scarlett and how you [proposed to her]?

Obviously, we're very much in love and we have a wonderful relationship. I don't think we'd be married if we weren't, but revealing the actual proposal story is...

[R]yan say it was [use] to [compress all of that love into one text message. [laughter] "The [situation] was there and it flew away in a little elevator love [text, yeah].

What do you love most about Scarlett?

You could fill the Staples Center with all of the adjectives that I would use to describe her. She is a fantastic person. [s]mile and cut to every way shape and form.

Are you the type who knows when you meet the right person?

Yeah. If you find the right person, you just know.

Which part of a woman's body are you attracted to?

I'm really into the scripted bone. [laughter]. I like the whole package. It would be terrible to say just a boobless butt floating by. [laughter]. I really like a all together [laughter].

Did your wedding turn out as you have planned?

I would say, without disclosing too much, that the wedding was pulled off exactly as planned—with privacy, which was of the utmost importance. Not secrecy, but privacy.

How much time did you devote to be in shape for this movie?

This movie is not typically a movie you would physically train for [laughing]. But I was getting ready to run the New York City Marathon right after the filming so ... in the mornings, I was going [for] 10 miles.

So you plan to run again in a marathon? What was your time?

No. I literally ran my ass [off] [body weight to runs [laughter]. I have a huge respect for anyone who can do it. My time was three hours and 30 minutes.

How was doing that physical comedy minus clothes with Sandra?

If you hadn't read the script and you walked on to the set that day, I would have looked like people are just doing expertly [a Dwyane du Bois] joint [laughter] which was a little bizarre. It helped so much doing those scenes with [my] buddy Sandy and I have known each other for nine years. With anybody else, it would have been deeply humbling but with her it was fantastic. Oddly, I was the one who walked away pregnant [laughter] as it has been a common refrain at home for me.

How did you and Sandra flow [on set]?

We met my speed dating [laughter]. So, Sandra and I met through a mutual friend. One of her best friends is a producer that I had worked on a film with. She went on to run my company with me. We've all been buddies for a long time. The first night I really hung out with Sandra involved a nightclub, an enormous amount of dancing and when I looked up at one point, George Michael was dancing with Sandra and I thought this woman knows people [laughter]. That's not bad.

Every time we open the Hollywood trade papers, we see your name announced as being in a new movie.

I've got [a] dirty photos of the [s]tars in the trailer. ...

When you moved away to become an actor, how did your family react?

My dad was a cop and my brother is a Mountie [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] so I may as well have told them I was going off to join the Royal Ballet [laughter].

KRISTA KI

Ryan Reynolds on Scarlett and Sandra

From page M1

when I said I was going to be an actor. But when you have a mad team of nurses and they kind of start to see that it pays off, then there's more understanding and acceptance.

How was he/she born both?

Definitely. Ironically enough, they exactly twenty children. I worked at a pole club for years and most of the patrons there were away on boats and they left their kids there. It's like cut as a sort of babysitter. I was in no position to shape the minds of children and those kids were awful. They were the sons and daughters of divorce wealth. I remember threatening a 6-year-old that I was going to stab him with a fork [laughter] as such, that was a pretty bad job.

How are you were with kids?

I love kids. I love hanging out with them. It'd be lying if I didn't have a moment or two wishing I had some of my own right now [on yeah, hopefully].

You are 10 years younger than your leading lady. Usually it's the other way around...

I married [leader of that other daughter]. What was most interesting to me was the role reversal. I feel like I'm the leading lady and she's the leading man.

You also have the roles reversed in real life—what is it like to be a Canadian married to an American?

I've [helped myself] to a lot of benefits. That's one of the big importance of getting married in the first place [laughter]. I was looking to upgrade to extraordinarily expensive bookcases [laughter]. Call, so wanted a stable, brutal Security system [laughter].

And the downside of being Canadian?

I apologize a lot [laughter]. Sorry.

Where does your humor come from?

Humor is a coping mechanism from certain insecurities.

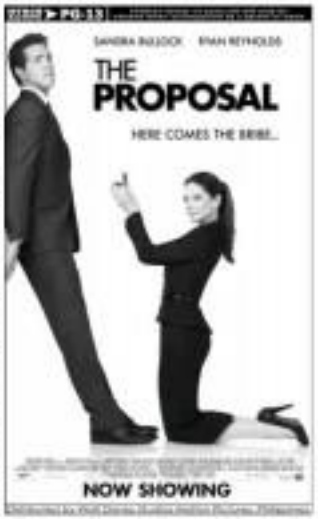
Why would somebody like you have insecurities?

I was a sensitive kid. I felt like a human sponge. I just felt everything so deeply. I used to look back at that time with sadness but now I think of it as like a gift. It really finds everything that I do for a living now.

What do you like about your "Deadpool" character?

There's no one else like him in the comic book world. He's completely aware that he's in a comic book. He's willing to break the fourth wall and address the audience directly to my book, he's absolutely hysterical.

E-mail the columnist at rmanalo_2000@yahoo.com and read his blog "The Movies Report" on ... http://blogs.inquirer.net/movies/report/



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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN SM CINEMA BRANCHES

This love team is really a hate team

By the Entertainment staff

BEFORE THE CAMERAS, Marimar idol and Sunset Star play the perfect "love" team. Off-cam, they're the farthest from chummy.

Shakiings during a recent event, a mole caught Mi and Si seated in opposite ends of the room...ignoring each other.

Not a word was exchanged between them. If more mobbed Mi, too, another source confirmed.

Onstage, Mi and Si rated their love to look friendly but, the source said, the tension in the air was so palpable, "You could cut it with a knife."

Oops!

Female singer inadvertently outed Wale Gillaspie in cyberspace.

On a social networking site, MC announced that he rehearses by singing Fil's songs.

Fil retorted: "I'm sure you can sing my songs better than I do ... you have a higher voice."

He's no tenor, but a soprano?

RUSHES SUNDAY

Secret reunion

Controversial Celeb dance duo'll meet seconds with Ramdolores Caleb.

A week in a five-star hotel, however, spotted the two dining, and eventually climbing into the Presidential Suite.

Source says CC and SC were quite lovey-dovey, dispelling the breakup allegations.

Missing X again

At a recent industry bash, Octoberx head Ogie Bacud escorted Celestine Reyes into the ball.

Asked if he had found his new "Miss X," Bacud said he was still trying to convince Reyes, who's a Vivia talent.

Reyes clarified that she's not grabbing the job from Bamboo Hadill who was earlier attached to the project.

"The role was first offered to me when I was still in GMA 7," Reyes said. "Boss Orly would know who's right for the part."

After a month in darkness, Reyes signed up with ABS-CBN again, happy to work with the network that "turned me into an actress."

No more Nicole, Barbie's

Solar Films' Wilson Tieng confirmed that Pinkyrat Doll Nicole Schwinnger had dropped out of Mayup Pacquiao's Metro Manila Film Festival entry "Pinakamasa."

Superdancer with Schwinnger's fellow 08-Aw, wrestler Dave Santos, also fell through, Tieng reported.

Is Panday in or out?

There is a rumor that "Panday," Bong Revilla's fantasy in the December's Metro Manila Film fest, may get pulled out of the annual event because of Pacquiao in the 2010 elections.

A Comelec rule bans political candidates from movies and/or TV shows. But a source from co-producer GMA Films insists it's all systems go for "Panday."

Happy birthdays!

Celebrity birthdays for the week of Aug. 2 to 8:

Today: Peter O'Toole is 77. Mary-Louise Parker is 45. Edward Furlong is 32.

Tomorrow: Tony Bennett is 83. Martin Sheen is 69. Martha Stewart is 68. Evangeline Lilly is 30. Sweet Baby of Onelhopdlle is 26.

Aug. 4: Billy Bob Thornton is 54.

Aug. 5: Lou Rawls is 74.

Aug. 6: M. Night Shyamalan is 39.

Aug. 7: David Duchovny is 49. Charlize Theron is 34.

Aug. 8: Producer Dino DeLaurentiis is 90. Esther Williams is 88. Dustin Hoffman is 72. Keith Carradine is 60. The Edge of U2 is 48. AP

Who's the mom?

LONDON — Jude Law's spokeswoman says the actor is set to become a father for the fourth time. The identity of the mother has not been revealed.

Publicist Sara Keene says that "following a relationship last year, Jude Law, 36, has been advised by the birth mother that he is to be the father of a child due in the summer."

She says Law is no longer in a relationship with the woman but "intends to be a fully supportive part of the child's life." AP

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The rags alone hit stories in 1916 subdued fanfare this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

• Dahil sa late, At di de las Alas pinagdiwang ni Inay? (We doubt it.)

• Bisita ni Ai di pinakinabangan ni Emp. (This is most possible.)

• Eng-eyow daw mukpaghalikan kay ni Ai! (Excitement.)

• Dramang ng Hiwatmaya, dyowa ni Ai Ai as Magdangal!

• Sling Dinahlia Pangalan type sina Pinky Pascual at Anicho Saunders. (As bad news partners ang apuw?)

• Richard Hoon gustong dyowain si Monica Hayes? Oiiee ha love.)

• Rumoran Boom umampalas si Lani Mercado! Totoo ang tsismis!)

• Ermats Tella, Nadawa Luna mag-jowa na pala, ... Eksena? Ito naman!!)

• Pag nanamay ako in love ka kayo!... Billie Revillame. (Ano kayang network ito'to?)

• Heart Evangelista nanonood sa Araneta nila si JC de Vera. (Where's with the lover JT)

• Hmm, Richard Gutierrez magkasabay-nanood (Sabi nga ng Lupet!)

• Ramon Hidill dinedate si E. Brown dahil sa inisip. (Dyosa ito'y nandoon!)

• Kristine Hermosa sobrang sikreto ng Mother Grandpa kaya nitong gif? (Bitter ata'y nyalanan!)

• Ate Santo quite malumanay at pulbosin si Willie Revillame. (Hard kaya nga Joey?)

• Mars Amoor super singit nito ng bolahin Inspirasi. (Ay Lau.)

PASADENA FORUM

Big stars rumored up for the Television Critics Association Celeb Summer in Pasadena, Calif., last week. Clockwise from top R: Anne Heche speaks for HBO's new series "Hung"; Marisa Tomei for History Channel's "The People Speak"; Ed Norton as producer of the HBO documentary "By the People: The Election of Barack Obama"; Matt Damon, producer and executive producer of "The People Speak." AP

'Family' was her last word, says grandson

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE WORST AND BEST OF TIMES Cory Aquino lives she said, soothing cents of the era, a much-mocked break for the President under climactic multiple threats by the MILF and NPA/JPE separatist rebels and renegade factions within the military. Diana Time Magazine in 2006 as a term "who harnessed the power of prayer and promise to overthrow tyranny," she herself prevailed over seven coup attempts.

HUSBAND AND WIFE Cory and Ninoy was a couple again during their 3-year sojourn in the States. They were based in Boston but are photographed here in Missouri in 1981.

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Memorial Services schedule

AUG. 2 AND 3 (SUNDAY AND Monday), La Salle Greenhills gym

- Wake (Business' line to start and end at Gate 6 of La Salle Greenhills gym, Ortigas Avenue
- 7 a.m. to 4 a.m.: Public viewing
- 3 a.m. to 7 a.m.: Break from public viewing
- 12 noon and 6 p.m.: Catholic Masses at La Salle Greenhills gym
- 2 p.m.: Press briefing at La Salle Greenhills media area
- A memorial called "Dedication Garden for The Cory" will be at the sacred ground of the Edsa Shrine. (Date and Time to be announced)
- Family members, VIP guests and media members will enter and exit Gate 6 of La Salle Greenhills, Ortigas Avenue, and walk in or be transported off the gym.

Aug. 3 (Monday): Manila Cathedral

- 8 a.m.: Remains of President Aquino will be transferred to the Manila Cathedral from La Salle Greenhills
- 12 noon and 6 p.m.: Catholic Masses at Manila Cathedral
- 2 p.m.: Press briefing at Manila Cathedral

Aug. 4 (Tuesday): Manila Cathedral

- 12 noon and 6 p.m.: Catholic Masses at Manila Cathedral
- 2 p.m.: Press briefing at Manila Cathedral
- 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Blessings, all services, overnight vigil and Requiem Mass

Aug. 5 (Wednesday):

- 8 a.m.: Mass followed by interment at Manila Memorial Park

The family requests that the wake of the former President will be given utmost respect and that activities during her wake be conducted with consciousness dignity at all times.

—Nikko Dizon

'Crisis baby' makes her mother proud

By Fe Zamora

BONDING For her amending in Hong Kong as Time Magazine hero for its 60th Asian edition, Cory reopened all her 4 daughters to be with her. From left are Pinky, Kris, Ballsy and Viel.

DEMOCRACY ICON CORAZON Aquino's "crisis baby" Kris Aquino-Yap has come her mother proud.

Kris, 36, stayed close to her mother until the end.

Aquino's youngest daughter stood by while caretakers yesterday prepared the former President's remains at the Heritage Park in Taguig City.

"She came out the strongest among them," according to a family friend, who witnessed the Aquino siblings in crisis.

According to this friend, Kris stood out in her mother's bedside needs like a professional nurse. She was also the first one to embrace the former President after each radiation therapy.

Kris was just a good nurse, but oldest sister Ballsy endearingly called her "Florence Nightingale."

"She performed the duties of a real nurse. She was in control," the family friend also said.

Deedee Siytangco, Aquino's spokesperson in Malacañang, said that Kris and her siblings, Maria Elena "Ballsy" Cruz, Aurora Corazon "Pinky" Abellera, Ma. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Victoria Elisa "Viel" Dee "drew strength from each other."

A year ago

The former President died early yesterday morning after more than a year battling cancer of the colon. She was 76.

Aquino was diagnosed with cancer in March 2008. When the family first announced her illness early last year, they did not say what stage Aquino's cancer was at.

On June 26, the former President was confined at the Makati Medical Center and was reported to be "serious condition."

Last month, Kris revealed on her TV show that her mother had stage 4 colon cancer and was in "pain," She also said she was taking a leave from TV hostings and appearances to be with her mother.

Born during a major crisis

A highly paid TV host and publisher on divorce, Kris was born in the midst of a "major crisis" in the family.

Her father, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was an opposition senator. Six months after Kris was born on June 14, 1971, a grenade exploded at the political rally of the Liberal Party, wounding senator of Jim Enrile's party mates.

On Sept. 21, 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos placed the country under martial law and ordered the arrest of all opposition politicians, including Ninoy Aquino.

At age 5, Kris wowed the crowds as a precocious toddler in the last Indoor rally campaigned for the 1978 Batasang Pambansa elections from his detention cell in Fort Bonifacio.

In 1980, Marcos allowed Ninoy Aquino to undergo heart by-pass surgery in the US. The Aquinos stayed in Boston where they lived for three years. It was here where Kris finally got to know her father.

Forever-Cory's baby

For Aquino, Kris will always be her "baby."

Every Aug. 31, the Aquino family and friends would gather at the grave of Ninoy Aquino at the Manila Memorial Park for Mass.

When Kris joined show biz, her appearances at intimate family affairs were almost always covered by media. Her mother seemed sure in mind. If at all, she seemed to enjoy Kris' celebrity status.

At the August 2009 memorial Mass, Aquino was seemingly searching the crowd for Kris who deserted up in a light yellow blouse and tight jeans which were ripped on the knees.

The usually soft-spoken former President exclaimed with joy: "Look at you, your jeans are torn," as she extended her arms to embrace Kris.

Special PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Special

She was a woman of steel–Saguisag

By Michael Lim Ubac

CORY AQUINO WAS prepared for the worst—even risking her life—to defend democracy in December 1989 during the worst coup that challenged her administration, former Aquino presidential spokesperson and Sen. Rene Saguisag said yesterday.

In an interview yesterday with *Bell*'s Cely Bocobo, Saguisag recalled Aquino's brave response.

Saguisag, who was then presidential legal counsel, described the former President as a picture of calm amidst the turmoil, who never entertained thoughts of surrendering the presidency to coup plotters.

"On Dec. 1, 1989, the most serious of the coup threats, she was very calm," he added, describing her resolve to stay in Malacañang as all out.

"If President Aquino was to go down, some of her friends would have to go down with her. On that fateful morning, it was widely believed that the Aquino administration I was going down," Saguisag said. "She was a woman of steel. In crisis, she was calm but conclusive. She always told us, 'I must walk all my might. I pray will all my heart. The rest I leave to God.'"

Later, when Saguisag and lawyer Ed Serafin were in the Adegui Guest House, that served as the residence of the First Family at that time, they found Aquino with her close aide Adolf Aquino (who later became presidential legal counsel) and daughter Kris, who was dropping on the sofa after going through "a sleepless night."

"She (Cory) did not waver, leaving her fate to God. That was a time when we were ready to give our all for the motherland. She kept asking when she would go for the country and not when the country could do for her. That's the kind of leader she was," said Saguisag.

Tweet us how you feel

SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS AND COMments on #Cory and follow us on twitter.com/inquirerinternet

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Via Web: Cory Inquirer special site at inquirer.net/specialreports/coryaquino

Via Mobile: Text INQ OFF BROADBUS to 4467 to get updates on your mobile phone.

Twitterers first to send condolences

Nicolejo: Its those of us who did our experience martial law pero #cory was the symbol of things that should not be, she fought with us and for us, may she RIP but her spirit and words will live on.

Kalliyo: It feels like "second of an era" because I was born in 1986. The she was not perfect, she was a solid voice of truth for the nation. She showed that a "housewife" could be brave and change the course of history. Her presence will be missed.

Jhdevas: Cory's passing will only be tragic if we don't act to protect her legacy: democracy & our Constitution. RIP Cory.

Mongoldolor: The Philippines has lost a Mother, an Ally, and it's Beacon of Hope & Democracy, the Late Pres. Corazon Aquino.

Kay_Jos: Thank you for stepping up 2 d plate & supporting

She showed that a 'housewife' could be brave and change the course of history. Her presence will be missed, *Twitted Aylliya*

d heart of the nation, Tita Cory you gave me country a fighting chance again.

Angelinbatallo: Cory may B a hero's wife but she'll best B remembered 4 her core convictions 2 Phildemocracy & how she touched lives w/her faith.

Jhayp1887: Cory Aquino might not have been the best president we had but she was a great Filipino. No one can close that. Rest in peace.

Boysilkmidnight: Because of Cory by denouncing any support for GMA and her cohorts

amorangpacifico: Cory Aquino showed that the Filipino is worth dying for, but she proved more that the Filipino is worth living for.

People in the streets felt like crying

I FELT SAD WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS OF CORY'S DEATH. Someone texted me about it and I saw it on TV. She symbolized the restoration of our democracy and we will miss her. What we love about her was she was so simple. She has no taint of corruption. She is upright.

—**Ruche, 43 (wearing black shirt)**

I felt sad (after hearing of Cory's death), we grew up with her. She is the child of our generation (1960s). It was after college days when she came into politics. I was shocked when I heard the news. It was the same shock I felt when I heard that Pope John Paul II died.

—**Ridoch, 42**

I opened the TV to confirm. When I saw her I feel like crying. I feel that without her we might lose all hope in restoring our democracy. She is the only good leader I know. She is the best leader. She is the only one who dares. She doesn't cheat, doesn't steal. If all Filipinos were like her, works seriously and honestly in her, then the country can prosper.

—**Ronald Rosario, 38, HR personnel**

I was saddened by Cory's death because we lost an icon of democracy. Anyway "Tita Dadi."

—**Mark Joseph Magsalin, 17, student at Letran**

We expected it because she has been battling cancer but we were still shocked by the news. She represented a legacy of freedom and democracy to the youth. Many people are now wearing "Dilaw" shirts, but some they will be grieving and wearing "Cory" shirts.

—**Christian de Guzman, 21, student at FEU**

"At a time when the country sorely lacks leaders with moral ascendancy, Cory was a constant reminder that it is possible to have one. She was an synonymous as she was incorruptible. Her death should move us to expect no less from leaders."

—**Ana Maria Tullabut, 23, housewife**

I texted boiling Manna for her as much as I could, but I think it's only proper that we continue praying for her now that she's gone because she did a lot for our country. She's very well loved and she'll surely be missed by many!

—**Louige Gali, 17, student**

Of course we feel sad. I'm sure a lot of people will mourn. Tita Cory's passing because of all the good she has done for our country.

—**Rafael de Peralta, policeman**

Common folk say goodbye

By Tara Quismundo

DESPITE HEAVY RAINS, at least 200 Tagaytay City residents, wearing yellow shirts, lined up across the Heritage Park's main gate yesterday afternoon, among them village officers and street sweepers.

"We just went to say goodbye to her," said Jane Manuel, 34.

"My just went to show our support to her as a former President ... She was the one who revived democracy," said Barangay council member Ely Arpon of Western Silang.

As the former occupying Mt Aguilar slowly passed them by, the residents threw a confetti of yellow bell flowers and waved yellow ribbons to bid her farewell.

The funerary carried at least 75 vehicles in the convoy that accompanied Mr Aquino to La Salle Green Hills, among them private cars, media and police vehicles at 3 p.m. yesterday.

NEIGHBORHOOD ICON The candles, the flowers, a home-made drawing and other memorials adorning the façade of the Aquino residence in Times St., Quezon City, are a testament that the homeowner is a well-loved neighbor. Cory and her family have lived on Times St. for decades. ALVIN

HONORS ROLL: Messages from the heart

OUR NATION HAS LOST A great leader and a mother. The Filipino people will forever be grateful for her heroic sacrifice of offering her leadership as a uniting beacon light during the dark days of the dictatorship. Her life and virtues shall always be an inspiration and source of strength to the Filipino people as we face the challenges and struggles as a freedom-loving nation.

—Hon. President Noli de Castro

* * *

President Aquino's contribution to the well-being of the country cannot be measured by mere words, statements and monuments for she has done much, much more. She played the key role in this nation's struggle to freedom, and she has done noble service in the restoration of democracy in our society.

Although, by a twist of fate, we have had differences and disagreements in politics, I have always held President Aquino in high regard and great respect as a worthy leader of our people.

As a Filipino, and as a former member of her Cabinet, I believe the nation owes her much, having sacrificed her life in the service of our people. She thus truly deserves the prayers, respect, admiration and appreciation of the Filipino people.

—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile

* * *

We give glory God for the life and sacrifices of President Cory Aquino.

She will never be forgotten.

As we mourn the passing of the Philippines' champion of democracy, President Cory Aquino, we remember the Aquino family's sacrifices and commitment principled stand that has strengthened Philippine democracy.

—Sen. Ping Lacson

* * *

I condole and offer my prayers to the passing of a leader of all generations, Mrs. Corazon Aquino, who used her unassuming years confessed in its spirit and guide our countrymen toward the ideals of public service and the true essence of democracy.

Let us carry on her legacy for the sake of the country she very well loved.

—Sen. Pia Cayetano

* * *

I hope and pray that Mrs. Aquino's legacy of democracy will continue to live on and inspire our present and future leaders.

To my colleague, Sen. Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino

—Sen. Miguel Zubiri

* * *

Our hearts are broken, but the lives she lit in our hearts will burn forever.

In life, she inspired us to rise above our despair and to regain our dignity as a people. She modeled a life of selfless giving—fighting alongside those who had less, and taking the culprit for those who can help live to seeking justice.

In death, she awakens us from our stupor of apathy, rewarding us to be steadfast in fighting for what is right and just.

As President Cory meets her Creator, we can almost hear the good Lord declaring, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." The Filipino people and citizens of the world are only too, "Amen!"

—Black & White Movement

* * *

A part of all of us died with President Aquino. In darkness she was our light.

In troubles she was our strength. In despair she was our inspiration.

In her pain she made us look in on ourselves. In her dying moments she united us in prayer.

Today we mark in tears the passing of an honest leader and steadfast vanguard and champion of freedom and democracy. The indefatigable and eternal flame of truth and justice behind the soul of our nation.

—Frank Chavez

* * *

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your tremendous sacrifices in making us free, in infecting us with courage, in teaching us love and in showing us how to live and die.

We know you are now with Our Lord and Mama and that you will not allow them to forget extending their protective care and love for the Filipino people.

We will always pray for your eternal happiness, always keep us in your legacy.

—Jaype and Bethan Ocampo

* * *

While the EPs have had principled disagreements with President Aquino on agrarian reform and her anti-insurgency campaign during her term, we shall not forget the periodic attacks by good governance and reformist groups against the cronyism and corruption that characterized the decades, from the people power uprisings against President Marcos and Estrada, and the continuing campaign for truth and accountability today. The fight for economic reforms shall continue through us."

—Terry Ridon, Secretary-General, League of Filipino Students

So neighborly on the street where she lived

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FEW YEARS BACK, JUANITA dig, a resident of Times Street in Quezon City, was surprised to hear soft knocks on her gate. She was even more startled to see former President Gloria Arroyo standing in front of her house.

The purpose of Arroyo's visit—This Cory sense to her neighbors—was to ask Sy's permission to use her pool so that Arroyo's grandson Joshua could play in the cool clean water.

"I was so surprised that a former President was knocking on my door, but it didn't seem so. She was very simple and kind to us," Sy, who lived next door to the former leader, said yesterday.

Sy was growing tan from her gate to check on the strangers buying flowers and soaps in front of No. 25 Times St. where Aquino's house, a modest one-story home, has stood for decades.

Yellow flowers, candles

As of noon yesterday, more than a dozen yellow flowers, with a couple of red and white ones, were placed on the Aquinos' green gate, protected by cloth tree.

Strangers in expensive-looking vehicles and even humble motorcycles stopped to say their prayers and light candles for the former President, despite not having known or met her personally.

By night, her home on Times Street for 30 years, now how the former President mingled with her neighbors as an ordinary citizen, without fanfare or spectacular entrance for her most feared democracy.

"She (Aquino) even became the sponsor at my child's wedding, along with (Quezon City) Mayor (Feliciano) Belmonte (Jr.), because we literally lived next door," she recalled.

Generous

Aquino, despite her status as a major player in the country's first people-power revolt, was a generous and pleasant neighbor to others who lived on Times Street and in Barangay West Triangle.

On special occasions like Christmas, Aquino would be the first to send by gifts, like her parentage on soup and fruit, along with a handwritten card.

"Binasahan pa ng tapi niya ako sa pagsweguin (She would send me presents before I did)," Sy said while looking somebody in the gate next door.

Even in times of grief, the former President was there with Sy's group just but with the power of prayer.

"When my husband died in 2002, she came to the wake to visit me. She comforted with me and prayed for me. That is how kind and generous she was," Sy added.

Eulogy

Another resident, Quezon City Councilor Bernadette Herrera-Dy, also recalled how Aquino would visit the wakes of other residents who had passed away to offer her condolences and pray with the family.

As the leader of an elderly and generous resident, Bernardita Sarmila, Aquino even gave a eulogy for her ex-parishioner with whom she had worked at the Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish.

"She was also there during happy times, like fiesta serving. She will remain the sweet and kind lady she was to us," she said.

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Advice

The councilor lived a couple of blocks away from the Aquinos' but became close to the former President after Herrera-Dy aided Aquino for advice in 2001.

"I was just 25 when I asked her advice if I should run for public office. She even had her picture taken with me so that it would help me in my campaign. And whenever I needed her advice, she was there lang ang pinagbigyan to the Hindi-nako pinapahirap ng buong (You're the only one I announce done). You did not let me down)," the councilor said.

Herrera-Dy also recalled impromptu breakfasts and dinners at the Aquinos' home for the neighbors and other friends, as well as Aquino's personal pabinggas or Christmas gifts.

Handwritten cards, 'emasymada'

Handwritten cards from Aquino were smiled with the affectionate "Kisang Cory," Herrera-Dy said as Aquino was her sponsor at her wedding.

"I would also write her back 'Kisang Cory' while my parents would address her 'Tita Cory'" she added.

In return, the Herrera would give Aquino boxes of her favorite empanadas (cheese-filled pastry), which the former President would accept with heartfelt gratitude.

"She would even call us up to personally (say) 'Thank You,'" Herrera-Dy said.

Mother of perpetual help

Her father, Jun Herrera, fondly called Aquino "The mother of perpetual help."

"People have would go to her for help, and she would not refuse. She was a dear compassionate and neighbor of ours," the elder Herrera said.

Picket

Herrera remembered how an action protesting on Times Street would always end with Aquino's story house and instead marched a picket at the grandes bigger house next door.

"But when they realized that the small, modest house was Tita Cory's, they went away in shame. Here is the most modest house here on Times Street. It doesn't even have a pool," he said.

Herrera added: "Times Street became famous because of her and liking and wherever I have dealings with foreigners who are my business partners/address, they say Oh, you're a neighbor of Cory"

Air of solemnity

Times Street yesterday took on an air of solemnity as strangers and the former leader's neighbors came in town or threw to offer flowers and prayers at the Aquinos' gate, which Enrique called itself from the rest with a number to San Benigno Aquino Jr.

Edith Collado, a businesswoman from Valenzuela City, came to the house yesterday morning to bring yellow flowers and a wish that Aquino was no longer in pain and now at peace.

"Naka-rinig kasi ako personally but I have steadfastly followed her even (for a an) sense of democracy and so one can relate what she has done for her country," she said.

Other sympathizers left handwritten notes in front of the gate, in which they offered condolences to the former President's children.

One note read: "Your mother was not just an inspiration to the Filipino people, but also to us mothers and women. Thank you for the lessons learned."

Another note from a certain Edgardo Aquino thanked the family for helping his ailing mother, and also extended his sympathies to the family.

Honking

Cars passing by the Aquinos' home would honk their horns in remembrance of the former President's passing, while some bystanders tied yellow ribbons to the vehicles' antennas and side mirrors.

For Herrera-Dy, Aquino's presence will be always felt in Barangay West Triangle, where she had served a niche for herself as an everyday neighbor and parishioner—"who just happened to be a former President.

"Finally, she is in peace. And all the more she will be praying for us because she's now closer to God. Even when she's in heaven, she may still be praying for us," she said.

THE QUIET AT THE PALACE President Aquino's second-floor office is testimony of her attitude toward power. She did not hold office in the Palace itself but in what used to be called the Guest House. It was neat and narrow with glass-paned windows that looked out into the ancient Palace garden with its ancient trees. And she believed she was just passing through. She was a guest.

GOOD TIMES

'Good morning, Mrs. President'

By JP Faoro

I GREW UP IN WEST AVENUE Homes in Quezon City, a few steps away from Cory's Times Street house. I remember my mother saying Cory went in the same colors Body then they called it "beauty parlor"), Pricilla's, on West Avenue, across the Philam Homes gate.

It was the 1970s. Martial law had just been declared and Ninoy Aquino was in jail. There was no business in this way my mother told the otherwise inconsequential story—would talk, really—but in hindsight, it was just like the uneasiness of the neighborhood where homes of the Marcos administration's officials, cronies and political opportunists (to be) jailed stood side by side.

In the mid-1980s, I joined the tabloids Special Edition straight out of college. While paid as full time staff (you wouldn't believe the rate) we found we could make extra bucks moonlighting as the company's inter publicists—yours, like the glossy Bulletin Magazine.

Erin Aquino was running 33 so I took the opportunity to take on the assignment because it paid extra and it meant just taking a few steps to Times to do the interviews.

The interviews took all afternoon and straight into the evening. Cory arrived with eldest daughter Bailey from Hacienda Luisita and found that nobody had prepared dinner yet. In typical Filipino fashion, she had the maid whip up pork nachos and rice—always the emergency provision.

I was done with the interview and was about to leave, but Cory would have none of it. She insisted I stay for the meal. Just like my mother who would not have a guest leave the house with a hunger story (but the last did not bother to feed him.

Cory asked how my interview with Erin went. I told her that her daughter was not nearly interrogating and may probably have a shrinkin career some day Erin smiled while Cory sighed: "Oh, please, JP don't encourage her!"

Apparently Erin had been keeping the household up all night with her karaoke.

Much later, as the political winds blew stronger and the streets glimmered with yellow ribbons, I visited Cory at her Makati office. Bailey showed me to the office. I saw Cory behind her desk and greeted her "Good afternoon, Mrs. President!"

"That's not funny, JP!" Cory told me in mock anger.

I moved on to be a reporter for the beginning, covering Ferdinand Marcos and his coup situation bid.

History subsumed by and before I knew it, the subject of my Malacañang coverage shifted from the main Palace to the Guest House.

And I was now saying: "Good morning, Mrs. President."

EMOTIONAL A man cries after offering a flower at the Aquino gate in Times Street, Quezon City, on Saturday.

FAMILY LIFE The Aquinos...from left, Viel, Cory, Noynoy, Kris, Ballsy, Kuyoy and Pinky at breakfast when the countryoung and kindergarten and girlfriend, in a matter of a few years, all that would change.

Priest says she always sat on the left side of the church, five rows from the back

By Julie M. Aurelio

DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS TO SIT in front, former President Corazon Aquino would sit quietly in the back of the church.

"She was not one who sought attention for herself. I think the only time she sat in front was when I was installed here as parish priest," said Fr. Ariston Sison of the Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish in West Triangle, Quezon City.

Sison said Aquino was a regular mass goer on Saturday evenings, often wearing yellow and arriving in the church 30 minutes before 6pm.

He said she sits on the Saturday anticipated Mass, she would attend Sunday Mass at 9 a.m., he said.

"She was not a celebrity when she's here. She was approachable. She talked with everybody. She was a parishioner like all of us," Sison said.

Aquino's favorite spot, he said, was on the left side of the church, five rows from the back. This was the pew where she sat together with her family.

Sison said the former President went to church accompanied by a single bodyguard and her driver, often entering through the aside door and leaving quietly through the side door.

Low profile

Jun Herrera, a resident of Barangay West Triangle, and another member of the parish, said Aquino attended Mass with her bodyguard and her driver and reminded them to pray.

"I think she taught them to go to confession," Herrera said yesterday, adding that Aquino maintained a low profile, blending in with other parishioners.

"People would greet her and she would greet them back," he said.

No airs

Sison said he has known the Aquinos family since 1986, but it was only in 2006 when he was assigned to the parish that he became close to Aquino.

"When I see her, I would ask how she is. She didn't have airs," he said in Filipino.

When the parish needed help, Aquino was always there.

"The parish was built with her help. But I was not her to take on a special role as an owner, she would say and in all humility, 'Huwag na (No, thank you).' She would attend the same but shell sit in the back," Sison said.

A fellow parishioner

Three was, however, one instance when Aquino gave in to Sison's request where she was asked to speak to churchgoers on a special occasion.

Everybody was troubled when the icon of democracy accidentally threw in the hand and became a parishioner. "To my close friend parishioners," Aquino said.

"It dawned that she considered herself as one of us. At last, I have received so many calls asking if Cory remained would be brought here," Sison said yesterday.

Last time

Sison said he last spoke to Aquino last year in January.

He said he learned she had died early yesterday morning via text messages sent by his parishioners.

He went to church straight away and saw several parishioners praying the rosary, offering prayers for Aquino who had passed away to the wee hours of the morning.

"It was all very spontaneous. So I decided to offer the morning Mass for Cory," Sison said.

Devotion to Mary

Sison noted that Aquino passed away on Aug. 1, the feast of St. Alphonsus and the first Saturday of the month, dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"We all know about her devotion to Mary. She is now in God's hands. Cory has returned to the Father's house," he said.

Sison said he and the parishioners would miss the lady in yellow who sat quietly in the back of the church.

"I plan to put flowers and light candles on her favorite pew. People can also lay flowers there. If they wish," he said.

For us, Sison said, she was our friend and fellow parishioner.

Room 920, 9th flr, 7 a.m.
'Kris used to stay by the window'

By Nitz Cadeliña Calaja

ROOM 920 ON THE NINTH floor of the Makati Medical Center bore no signs that a beloved former president had died there a few hours earlier.

At around 7 a.m. yesterday—two hours after the death of Corazon Aquino was announced by his son Noynoy—two employees from the engineering department of the hospital were seen fixing the electrical wiring in the ceiling, while a cleaner scrubbed the comfort room.

"In the room will be ready for the next occupant," an employee said casually, as if a former president had not stayed there for weeks battling a illness and recovery.

The roughly 40-square-meter VIP room had only the usual amenities—a sofa set, an airconditioner, a refrigerator and a flat-screen TV.

The hospital employees were doing their daily chores while listening to the TV airing updates on the passing of the heroine of the 1986 Edsa People's Power Revolution.

"Kris used to stay by the window," another employee said, pointing at the window that gave a view of a gloomy skyline.

Kris, the actress and TV host, is the youngest of Aquino's brood of five.

A closed door

The employee said that during the time the former President was in Room 920, its door was often closed, as that he and fellow workers just had to keep to themselves their curiosity about what was happening inside—especially yesterday at around 3 a.m., the hour death took Cory.

When the hoopsters entered the room, the death bed had yet to be rolled out, its blue bed cover still fluffed.

All the medical apparatuses, however, were immediately removed after the family left.

At around 5:30 a.m., a family driver of the deputies was seen loading items into a white Toyota Hi-ace van at the hospital's back entrance. The driver said the items belonged to Kris, who had just left.

The nurse at the executive console, Room 920 had changed a bit. Guards were still around but the security had loosened up, far different from the setup the previous weeks when two additional guards had closely guarded the room apart from security personnel from the hospital.

Also previously, everyone who attempted to pass through the corridor was scrutinized by the guards. "Where are you going?" and "Who's your patient?" were the frequent questions.

Also, they kept telling to patients that no one was allowed to loiter in the ninth floor. They refused to answer when asked why the security was strict.

Employees stunned

An employee cleaning the toilet on the ground floor yesterday was stunned after this reporter told her the news.

"Really? I haven't been told. We were not allowed to talk about it here," she said in Filipino, after a pause and hesitating a sigh.

Although relevant operations had yellow ribbons pinned on their uniforms, they refused to utter so much as a word when asked about Aquino.

The hoopsters tried to ask any one of the seven doctors whose names were posted on the door to Room 920.

But the nurse at the station said the doctors wouldn't allow any interviews.

No more violations

Hours after Noynoy announced that her mother was gone, the rain still hadn't stopped falling over Makati and the overcast sky seemed to deepen the country's gloom.

The media had ended their hospital outpost.

By midmorning, the Makati Medical Center had restored its usual operations, people coming in and going out with no one looking like possibly a reporter plying them with questions.

It was more than a sense acquiescent that ended yesterday. It's as was over, too.

"I LOVE HAPPY COLORS," says the artist painter. Behind her is an example of her work. She never sold any of her artwork but gave them away or used them to raise funds for good causes.

Artist painted 'a colorful life'

By Ma. Cores P. Deya

"TIME TO PRAY". A 2001 painting by former President Corazon Aquino, shows a flower-covered hill with steps leading to a big cross.

During her last painting exhibit two years ago, Cory gave away cards with this picture. On the back of the cards was a prayer she had composed, "Prayer for a Happy Death."

Still astounded, it was in be her first and last major exhibit.

Cory's "shout" were done in the naïf style. "It's not as if I'm so talented," Cory told this broadcaster with self-deprecating humor. "My paintings are not for sale. I usually give them away as gifts."

Flowers and faces

Done in acrylic and oil, the paintings were mostly of flowers and women's faces done in the last 10 or so years. Several were finished in 2000, a few months before she fell ill.

Some of Cory's earlier paintings had been used on calendars, fans and cards. One was made into a jigsaw puzzle. Several big ones are on display in Malacañang Palace. A big painting of roses done in brisk strokes dominates her room.

Why had she not done a painting of her husband Ninoy, unchanged lover and martyr?

"Then, the things that I have done for him these last 24 years," she exclaimed longwhile, "and now I have to paint him?"

Pain still there

Her only son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, thought it would not be easy for his mother to do a painting of his own. "She knew my father up close and it would perhaps be painful and difficult for her."

Asked why those were no faces of men in her paintings, Cory laughed and said, "Maybe it's also encouraging. (I still don't) know (how)."

Cory's last painting exhibit was at the Museum and Archives of St. Scholastica's College, where she attended grade school. The exhibit was for her 1st... But since (that) exhibit had just celebrated its 40th year, presided upon her to mount an exhibit and she obliged.

Cory studied under Governor-and Filipino Benedictine friares and graduated valedictorian of her St. Scholastica's grade school class in 1946. She went to the United States for high school and college. She majored in mathematics.

That last exhibit was part of a series of 2007 commemorations in honor of her husband, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, who was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1983. The invitation said the exhibit "reminders (the man who understood) a nation and features the art of the woman who healed it."

One of Cory's paintings, "Four Seasons" (2000), shows four women who represent her four daughters, Ballsy, Pinky, Viel and Kris.

"The Memory Lane" (2000) is a young woman in yellow running on a river. When told that the image resembled her adorable celebrity daughter Kris, she brightened up. "Kris would be so happy to hear that," she said.

"A New Rally Artist" (2002) shows a woman in a yellow gossy, while "Symphony in Green" (2003) is a cascade of green roses.

Whose right curses

"Battered Woman" (2005) is different from all the rest because of its jagged strokes and red colors.

"I don't know, but I just wanted to do it," Cory said, when asked why the painting differed from the others. She said she did not always know how a painting would turn out.

"I love happy colors," Cory said of her works. "I go to Botanical Bookstore myself to choose and buy my paint."

Then might would come and, in the quiet, she would gather her paint, brushes and palette and sit down to work on the canvas.

Summing up

Indeed, there was life after the presidency. Through the Ninoy Aquino Foundation, Cory pursued her involvement with nongovernment organizations. She made occasional forays into "people power" and politics. And she painted.

"A Colorful Life" (2007) could sum up the life and times of a seldom seen, through a dramatic historical turn of events, some torn her own.

(Post script: The day after our article on her painting exhibit came out in the Inquirer, Cory sent a text message: "Just got to member... thank u for the front page report on my paintings. I'm glad we're back to celebrities. Kind Mom! Cory Aquino." It's still in my cell phone.)

YOU ARE NOT ALONE ("Hindi Ka nag-Iisa") the nation's battle cry after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino in search of justice makes a comeback on a Cory poster by Ninoy's landmark statue on Ayala Ave.

CORY SEMPER MAJOR

Do you ever wonder why we call her Cory?

By Fr. Rolando R. de la Rosa, O.P.
Rector Magnificus of University of Santo Tomas

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY we call Corazon Aquino simply Cory? Her millions call her several. Perhaps it is because the family name is (unpronounced) a emphatic distance. Maybe it is beyond words. Cory is familiar.

People also prefer to call President Macapagal-Arroyo GMA. If they call her Gloria, it is almost always accompanied by epithets, most of which are not flattering. In contrast, Cory has become a term of endearment.

Perhaps we love to call Corazon Aquino by her first name because the mood set in her indomitable life, she was both a Cojuangco and an Aquino. But she had refused being cast in a mold that had defined her into toronto and elitist background. She had also refused to be identified simply as a president, mother of five, wife of Ninoy, political activist, etc.

Cory had managed to be an unequivocal sincere demonstration. Theorizing, labeling and personalization. Unlike Marcos, Cory did not wedded her identity with her function, gender or role.

Rightly we say Cory acts as per mujer. Cory will always be greater than the world's idea of her.

NO IDENTITY CRISIS. Cory had not wedded her identity with her function, gender or role. Her name itself is familiar.

Debris of power

In 1983, the curtain finally fell on Marcos, by then a bloated of untold, surrounded by the magnificent debris of power and unconsumed wealth. So was a man obsessed with changing Philippine history.

Pity for insidious intellectual gift and leadership ability he had dreamt of erasing the history of our oppressive past and instituting the new Filipino to usher in a history. But experience had turned the grandiose story prior back upon itself, shattering promise with performance.

Like many human projects inbred with the arrogant claim for absolute power, it was doomed to failure.

Downward not upward

Marcos thought he was soaring higher and higher, until he discovered that the rush was not upward but downward, pulled by his own by the weight of his self-importance.

His fall began the moment he started listening to the sound of sycophants' wagging tongues, the coarse laughter of allies who surrounded him like flies and whose pretending listless were testaments of their unbridled greed.

Soon after the curtain also fell on Cory. But immediately, it was again to reveal a woman, the famous anonymous, the housewife whose very power-lessness made her the emblem of nobility amidst suffering.

Icon of faith

Cory became an icon of faith amid seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Her life and personality have become moved to people power, she had sought to love in just world affairs and as victims of poverty, but as dignified participants and leaders.

I hope her name will not be buried into a mere slogan mouthed by politicians or artists in support of dubious and self-serving causes. I hope her life will not be reduced into a few crumbs of witty anecdotes.

True to his mother, Cocoy had sought no thin the road he took, but in the streets, the killing fields or the mob market, but in the hearts of people. It is with the heart that the Filipino feels his passion strongest. No drive devotes and his soul finished.

It would be tragic if we allowed our trivial pursuits and sensitized reactions to quench the passion Cory had set aflame.